

NYSP conference workshops – 17th October 2009

Key points / outcomes note

Name of workshop	Thriving Third Sector
Name of note-taker	Jonathan Spencer
Format of session Please note briefly the outline format used, e.g. quiz/presentation etc.	Presentations from Chief Executive of NYFVO and Assistant Chief Executive, NYCC, and short group exercise relating to the question: “What could the public sector do to improve the way in which the 3rd and public sector work together?”
Key points highlighted during speaker presentations (if applicable)	See presentation
Key points arising during main discussion	<p><u>General point: it is in everyone’s interest to have a thriving third sector (VCS) but challenges for VCS are access to information for funding opportunities and service commissioning. Need mapping and dialogue/work together collaboratively (VCS/statutory sector) and recognise the expertise that the VCS can provide.</u></p> <p>The recession poses challenges for both the third sector and public sector: demand (e.g. increase for debt advice and carers services) and resources. Third Sector was already overstretched before the recession. There is a danger that with the recession the third sector/statutory sector will look at their own problems in a silo fashion – this will be counterproductive. Need to have trust between both sectors</p> <p>Challenges and opportunities for the VCS to engage with the commissioning process. But need mapping and dialogue. Good flow of information is needed between both sectors if VCS are to be</p>

	<p>fully engaged in the process. It is about seeing what capacity is out there and using it.</p> <p>There are individual pots of money from government but collectively the VCS and public sector need to harness these opportunities. Needs a lead to draw both sectors together to make use of funding opportunities – currently we are all ‘fumbling in the dark’ and competing rather than co-operating as there is an absence of information as to who has applied to which fund. E.g. ‘Real Help for Communities’ package – Capacity Builders. LEADER – missing tricks collectively on engaging with this process.</p> <p>Questions asked by delegates were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Where do you see conduit of supported people service to get a voice? Is it the VCS? 2) Does the NYSP Third Sector Group have a view about the role of parish councils (<i>the person posing the question felt that parish councils were underused – they are willing to take on wider responsibilities</i>) 3) [linked to question 2] Rural Action Yorkshire helps parishes develop parish plans. Is there an opportunity there for links to be made between Rural Action Yorkshire, parish councils and the VCS via the Third Sector Group? 4) The VCS thrives on maximising funding opportunities. Where the public sector can help is to provide information on the availability of funding sources: a good flow of information is needed. I haven’t had a copy of the NYCC Funding Newsletter for awhile. Is this still being produced?
<p>Did the group identify any obstacles/barriers to progress?</p>	<p>See above: lack of information on funding and mapping of services.</p>
<p>Key outcomes and/or action points identified</p>	<p>ACTION point: Helen Black to check with Capacity Builders to see if NYFVO can share information on bidders to the ‘Real Help for Communities’ package to see if other organisations could work together with the bidders to enhance such bids now and in the future</p>

	<p>ACTION point: J. Spencer to check to see if NYCC still produces FUNDING NEWSLETTER. VCS organisations reported they had not received this for awhile</p> <p>ACTION point for consideration: NYCC Economic Development Unit/A N Other to help VCS in developing skills e.g. to exploit funding opportunities/service commissioning</p> <p>ACTION: Explore opportunities for links to be made between Rural Action Yorkshire, parish councils and the VCS via the NYSP Third Sector Group</p>
<p>Any other observations?</p>	<p>No</p>