

advocacy alliance

voice | view | action

Transformation and the Third Sector – a threat or an opportunity?

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Possible Threats

- A market based system
- People not choosing our services or fewer people using them
- Not having the skills to offer help and support to people who may traditionally have received this from Social and Health Care professionals
- Lack of accessibility to our services
- Lack of knowledge of our services
- Will there be an impact on our Local Authority Funding?
- Will impact on social care third sector organisations but also other community based services
- What impact on our campaigning role where will disadvantaged people get their “megaphone”?

What do we already have

- We know our clients and their needs
- We have already designed services around those needs
- We are trusted by people who use our services
- We are creative and enterprising
- We have a wide breadth of knowledge and expertise
- We have always worked in a person centred way
- We have skill and expertise in providing and sharing high quality information with a range of people
- We already support people to gain new skills through volunteering

Opportunities?

- Ability to offer real opportunities for people to increase their independence, health and well being – helping them to “tailor” their services to meet their needs
- Be able to focus our services on real individual need based on our knowledge
- Increase in potential volunteers who we can offer new skills to
- Increase in opportunities for “social firms” to help people into employment
- Opportunities to work in *effective* partnership with Bedford Borough to achieve real change and overcome many of the barriers we have experienced

Where are we?

- Are we ready?
- What do we need to do to be ready:
- Accessible services?
- Person Centred?
- Safeguarding?
- Marketing
- Creative thinking – changing the model?

What now and What next?

Increased partnership working between Bedford Borough Council and the Third Sector – how do we engage?

- How do we audit what we have versus what is needed?
- How do we market our services? Web based “shopping”?
- How do we as the Third Sector work together on this?
- What additional support do we need – can we get it by pooling our expertise?
- How do we understand intentions regarding future Third Sector contracting and grant arrangements in relations to Personalisation.
- No answers on a postcode but perhaps indicating this assembly needs to be the start of robust partnership working for all of us .