



## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT GROUP MEETING

5.08.14 at London Funders

### Participants

Jade	<b>Glanfield</b>	Association of Charitable Foundations
Kerry	<b>Luker</b>	BBC Children in Need
Oliver Sian	<b>Davis</b>	Big Lottery Fund
Hugh	<b>Stultz</b>	Big Lottery Fund
Kathy	<b>Evans</b>	Children England ( <b>Presenter</b> )
Sharon	<b>Long</b>	Children England/ Partnership for Young London
Ciaran	<b>Rafferty</b>	City Bridge Trust ( <b>Chair</b> )
Christine	<b>Lenehan</b>	Council for Disabled Children ( <b>Presenter</b> )
Joyce	<b>Harvie</b>	Greater London Authority
Erik	<b>Mesel</b>	John Lyon's Charity
Malcolm	<b>John</b>	London Borough of Harrow
Tom	<b>Drew</b>	London Community Foundation
Jim	<b>Minton</b>	London Youth
Rachel	<b>Wharton</b>	New Philanthropy Capital
Emma	<b>Cornish</b>	Peabody

### In attendance

Becky	<b>Green</b>	London Funders
David	<b>Warner</b>	London Funders

**Apologies for absence** were received from Vicki Allan, London Borough of Newham; Stephen Bediako, Project Oracle; Marcus Hulme, Big Society Capital; Adam Ruchman, London Borough of Lewisham

Ciaran welcomed everyone to the group, and noted the actions from the previous meetings, which are available on the meeting notes from 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

### SEN children with disabilities – personal budgets

#### Christine Lenehan, Director, Council for Disabled Children (CDC)

Christine presented on the impact of the SEN & Disability reform changes, focusing on looking at what's going to change and what funders need to know.

The Children and Families Act 2014 became law in March 2014. Part 3 of this Act was titled Children and Young People in England with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and this formed the most contentious part of the Act, especially over the lack of multi-agency delivery models and debates as to whether Health, Education or Social Care budgets would cover the costs. The CDC briefing on the Act is available [here](#).

Christine outlined two main changes over recent years for SEN and Disabled children:

- The profile of this group of children has changed dramatically. There has been an increase in the number of low birth weight children, something that can have an effect on their progress throughout their school lives. Extremely low birth weight children are up to 50% more likely to have a long term disability
- There has also been a rise in children with an autistic spectrum disorder. This change is due

to more than just better diagnosis. We are getting better at understanding the needs of these children, but we don't understand what's causing this rise.

Christine commented that although some governments seem to be obsessed with academic achievements, in order to have a really positive impact on the attainment levels in schools they should be tackling SEN. For example, although frequently the least qualified or experienced staff work with SEN children, it should actually be those professionals with the highest skills and abilities. One further point to note is that although most social care services are used by those in poverty, this issue transgresses levels.

### **Principles**

Section 19 of the Act, focused on Principles, puts children, young people and parents at the centre of decision making. It has taken a long time for people to believe that disabled children have a voice, and even longer to believe that they have something valuable to say. In many places the parents still feel that the process is a fight. However there is progress and some programmes are starting to put children at the heart of the activity, e.g. EPIC is a group of 16 disabled young people (supported by the Council for Disabled Children) to advise the Department for Education on changes to the special educational needs and disabilities system as part of the Children and Families Bill.

The parent lobby can be a positive influence, though Christine outlined important work to focus the parents on considering what outcomes they want for their child, rather than what they think they can get, in order to look at a realistic end aim and steps to achieve it. There should be a focus on achieving the best possible outcomes.

### **Working across agencies and institutions**

The impact of the Health and Social Care Act has led to the fragmentation of services for children in this area particularly CAMHS (Child and Mental Health Service). Whereas many parents can find out about services through informal linkages at school and with other parents, these parents of SEN and disabled children often don't have this network.

The local offer (section 30) aims to provide information on education, health and care for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. Information is power for these families and local offer will inform them what is available in their locality and within travelling distance.

The Act suggests increased joint working across agencies:

- Education, training and social care provision to be kept under review (section 27)
- Promoting integration and joint commissioning arrangements (Section 25, Section 26)
- Cooperation across services and institutions (Section 28)

### **Education Health and Care plans**

EHC assessments (section 36) are assessments of education, health care and social care needs. They are person centred and outcome focussed, to be drawn up within 20 weeks and with a legal threshold of broadly the same as for a statement. Although there is no national template, there are particular sections that must be included in the content. There is a duty to secure the education and health provision specified in an EHC plan (section 42) and there are stronger duties in relation to social care (section 37).

The EH assessments will include young people, potentially up to 25, and so including NEET young people. Therefore, up to 60% of children in young offending institutions will now also be included: it is at these transitional stages where young people are at their most vulnerable and it's important that they have this support to help them get back into the system.

### **Personalised budgets (section 49)**

This will be an amount which is identified as available to secure particular provision in the plan, and now aims to include the parents or young people in this process. Personal budgets will also be extended to children with long term health conditions. Christine notes that good personal budgets can transform lives, but the worst are about an abdication of responsibility. A budget needs to understand how money is spent for children, so by 1st September there will be a policy and plan for personal budgets.

Other developments and upcoming changes:

- Children and young people in custody (part 3, sections 70 – 75). There has been a lot of work to see what this will look like in practice, as currently the system is too complex. This will commence in April 2015.
- Pupils with medical needs in schools (Part 5, section 100). From September 2014, there will be statutory guidance that schools will have to meet the health needs of children in schools.
- Questions and discussion
- The group discussed how to ensure more consistency between local authorities and even between staff within the authority. Although it is difficult to have an honest debate about the personal budgets as costs are so tight for local authorities, a personal budget should allow for choice and control and there is now a lever to encourage engagement with children and young people. There has been some very positive local authority engagement and so this should be built upon and attempts made to support them and create clear guidelines for parents and children. Building the evidence base of where there have been positive outcomes for children is significant.
- There is no scope for a review of children's personal budgets, unless there was a wholesale review of all personal budgets, as the adult personal budget 'pot' is a lot larger.
- The youth custody clause was entered in the last day of the act and so the process of planning and path finding is taking place now. It's about supporting children through the process and out the other end of custody. Christine noted that it is a very worthwhile process and CDC would be happy to engage others in this process.
- There is a massive resource challenge, but professionals have to be brave and be clear with parents about what they can and cannot control. It's about using money in a smarter way, as there is a lot of duplication and a more cost-effective system is needed, e.g. assessments should be more streamlined.
- The appetite for change is significant. We currently don't commission for the children we have, we commission for the children we used to have. We also don't commission in a sensible way. One interesting example was given as a logical commissioning structure. Nottinghamshire have 6 CCGs and so they devolved their money to the Local Authority for this, which made more sense to parents and made the path clearer.

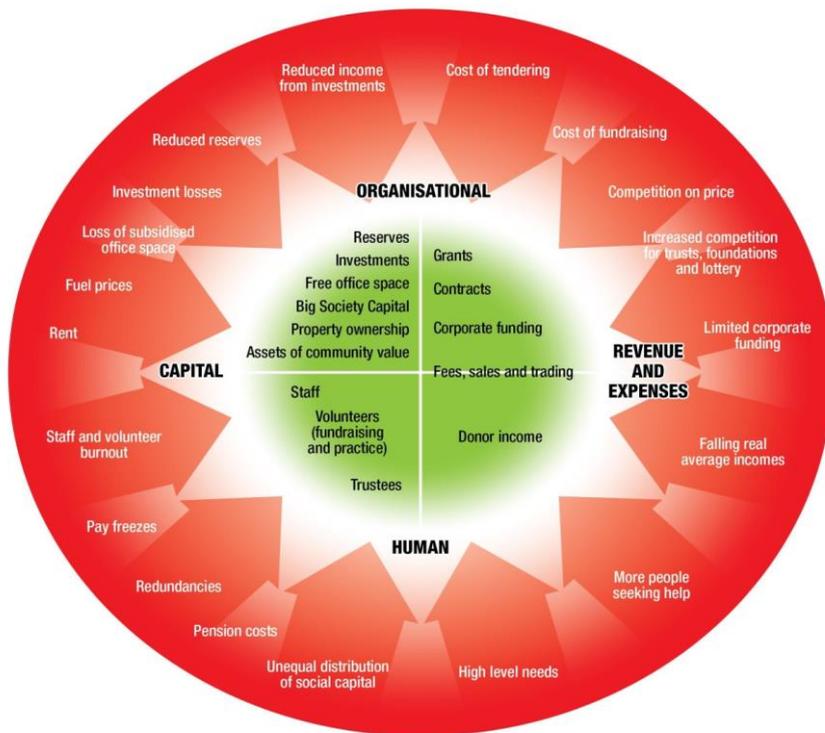
Christine emphasized that if attendees would like further information on personal budgets, or would like to discuss any of these topics further, to contact the Council for Disabled Children.

### **Declaration of Interdependence**

**Kathy Evans, Chief Executive, Children England**

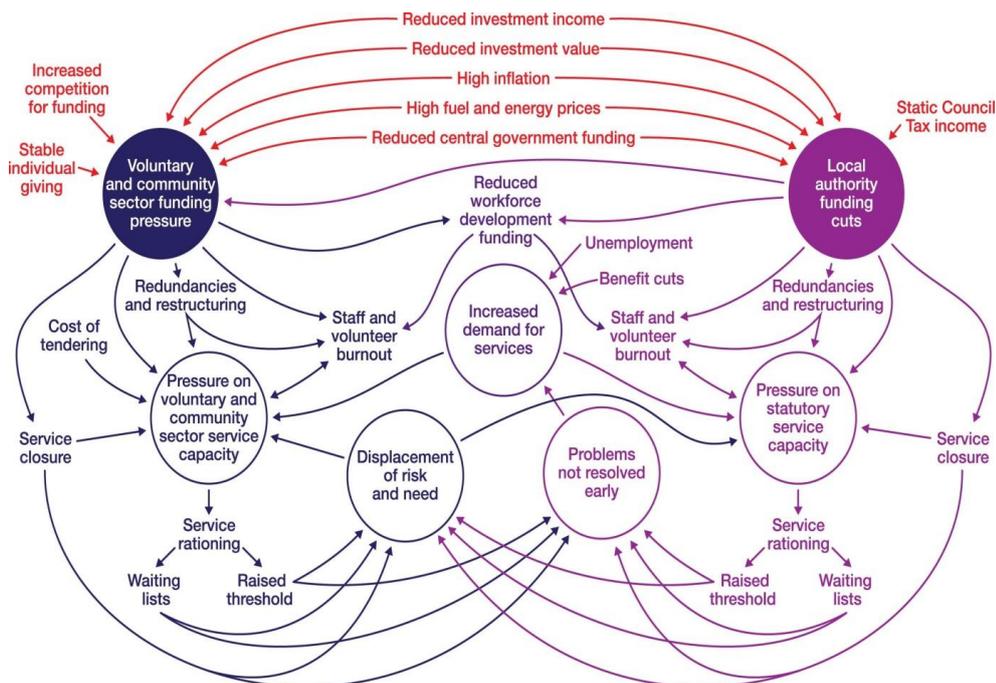
Kathy presented on the origins and aims of the Declaration of Interdependence, which was launched recently with exclusive coverage in the Financial Times.

Initially, Kathy introduced the background behind the declaration of Interdependence and the research for the Perfect Storms publication. Kathy outlined 2 'perfect storms'. The first is a business storm for each individual organisation, as in the diagram below:



This diagram presents what it takes for an organisation to survive and presents the diversity of the inputs and the areas where pressures can exert strain on the organisation. As the Children and Young People sector was a much higher recipient of local authority public money before the recession, they received the brunt of the cuts. Although donor income and volunteers were steady, the capacity of the organisation to deal with this has decreased. Waiting lists and referral policies were introduced, criteria rationed and staff were stretched as a lot of reserves were lost.

The next diagram, below, represents how, no matter how organised a charity is, it is still affected by what's happening in their local area and is interdependent on the system.



No child is properly supported by only one organisation and this diagram reinforces how much we share.

A pressure in just one area of the chain will affect others and this can result in a displacement of risk and need as problems are not resolved early. This environment can lead to bad feeling between sectors. The Declaration of Interdependence asks that everyone step aside from their organisational interest and puts children back to the centre again. We can then bring all our resources and skills to the table and begin to be more strategic about where the money goes. If organisations need to compete for contracts then it is difficult to have these open conversations. It's important to have strong civic leadership from the local government and so the public sector is important to this, as well as the knowledge and skills of the voluntary sector.

One step is to be practical about how we can move forwards, and so Children England are starting to ask for and gather case studies about where collaborations and a commitment to moving forwards without duplication are happening.

### Questions

Questions and discussion gave the opportunity to explore the Declaration for Interdependence and its relevance and potential implications for the future development and funding of children's services, for the voluntary and community sector and its charitable funders.

- The group queried as to the strategic commissioning response, both formally and informally and how far Children England members are prepared to be involved. Kathy outlined the positive feedback already received from local authorities, even if they can't immediately sign up. There is some doubt expressed by local authorities as to whether charities will put their voluntary income on the table or be willing to change their organisational culture, framework and processes. Local authorities themselves are not given long term clarity about their settlements therefore cannot commit to longer contracts, and many charities have therefore invested in a skill set and staff which are tied to this competitive environment. This declaration is about building allegiances and trust. All organisations will find this hard, and it may initially be a waiting game. However, it's a very positive start as the list of organisations already committed is growing and includes some very well-known names.
- The group discussed the government's emphasis on a competitive environment, however Kathy noted that there had not been a lot of resistance from central at this stage. There is not a level playing field and this is an important dialogue to have at a national level, however with many responsibilities devolved to local level, local authorities have the scope and freedom to do many things.
- The place to start is with the children and parents to establish who they trust and services that they will use, then build up to the community level. There are some challenges to doing this properly and we need to be completely honest. There are some areas e.g. children's homes, which have historically been expected to be statutory, however voluntary income has been subsidising them for years and the public sector has never had this money. As the local authority budgets are decreasing, and commissioning and contracts are increasing, we need to look for the most appropriate and simplest ways to work together.

### Roundtable update

The group updated each other on activities and current challenges:

- London Youth have been consulting their members on engaging girls and will be using the learning to inform their programme development. They have also been doing work with schools and youth clubs and encouraging them to think together about shared outcomes.
- City Bridge Trust has funded core costs for many organisations and it's important for funders to consider the necessity of core funding for the survival of the projects.
- BBC Children in Need have had successful recruitment for their Committee, and are enthusiastic about having a diverse and well skilled Committee.
- John Lyon's Charity has been working with London Youth to research the quality mark. They

have also heard from some youth clubs recently which are being forced to close. One of these was previously providing space for 6 well funding programmes which now will have no venue. Funders need to consider this in their funding of youth clubs.

- Children England is looking at the use of social investment in the sector and will be hosting a regional roundtable in November. Also, Children England reported that the National Audit office is doing work on value for money of procurement.
- Partnership for Young London is continuing with the research, commissioned by London Funders with funding from several members, and will be updating the funders in September.
- Big Lottery Fund are carrying out work on how investment meets disinvestment, and also looking at a mental health review.
- New Philanthropy Capital are starting some research on transitions for youth, especially for disabled people and would like to talk to funders about funding gaps in the sector.

Ciaran thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion. Actions from the previous meeting (28th May 2014) are available on the meeting report. He emphasized the need for funders to use their position to encourage and help the sector to have a voice.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, 10am - 12noon