



**Dorset  
Community  
Action**

**2016**

# A Vision for the Voluntary Sector in Dorset



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Community  
Action**



Dorset Community Action  
Dorset Communities Forum  
09/12/2016



## A Vision for the Voluntary Sector in Dorset

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

DCA's Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone who attended a Vision for the Voluntary Sector in Dorset, a conference hosted by DCA, in conjunction with Dorset Communities Forum, which will look at the current issues and the future for Dorset's voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

The conference was for anyone concerned about the future of their organisation and wanted to find out more about working with the Statutory Sector, a whole system approach to health and social care and preparing for unitary status.

Attendees had the chance to hear from speakers on several topics and were able to take part in interactive voting on key questions.

The conference presentations have been collated into this report, alongside the results of the days interactive voting on some of the key issues raised.

All of the conference participants rated the conference as good or excellent in terms of the value of the event.

Thank you.



## AGENDA

Time	Item	Presenter
10.30	Introduction to conference session, aims & objectives for today: a) To set out our vision for the VCSE sector across Dorset b) To look at key issues for VCSE sector group in Dorset	Alan Clevett
10.35	1) Our Vision for Dorset	Alex Picot
11.00	2) Working with the Statutory Sector (our relationship & experiences)  <i>Interactive voting against some key questions on main screen</i>	Nick Warren
11.30	3) Health & Social Care : A Whole System Approach  <i>Interactive voting against some key questions on main screen</i>	Paula Bennetts
11.50	COFFEE & BISCUITS - Network Opportunity	
12.10	4) Support for Local Economic Development  5) The role of Dorset Community Forum  <i>Interactive voting against some key questions on main screen</i>	Candida Blaker  Caroline Buxton
12.45	6) How we Prepare for Unitary Status  <i>Interactive voting against some key questions on main screen</i>	Prof Gerry Stoker
13.15	10 minute summary – Thank you for Attending	Alan Clevett
13.25	CLOSE / Mince Pies & Christmas Nibbles	

### Interactive Voting

Dorset Communities Forum will be supporting the development of audience interactive questions for each of the plenary sessions.

# 2016 – Dorset’s VCSE Sector

## Why are we here today?



Alex Picot, DCA Chief Executive

[alex.picot@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:alex.picot@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk)



### PROGRESS FROM LAST YEAR’S CONFERENCE

- How best to measure the VCSE sector’s impact and value.
- VCSE Navigator Pilot – individual risks and their associated costs (e.g. a Doctor’s visit = £45), potential savings, HACT.
- DCC infrastructure investment. – outcomes & impact e.g. supporting VCSE groups continue to provide a service for their communities.
- How best to map collaboration in the VCSE sector, and make better use of our skills and resources.
- BIG Lottery locality plans;
- VCSE Navigators;
- CAID – Advice Partnership.



- Start a commissioning conversation and develop a common outcomes framework with DCC.
  - DCA, DCC Early Help & Commissioner conversations;
  - DCC Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) pilots;
  - Living & Learning Centres.
- 
- Work with DCC to develop a simple procurement process, and how best we can build VCSE capacity for contracting.
  - No detail on action from DCA experience in 2016/17;
  - Limited evidence of progress.
- 
- Consider the future for Community Partnerships and their role (if any) in supporting this process.
  - Many CPs face ongoing finance/support challenges and therefore focussed on their own futures.



## Are these still the key issues?



# Purpose of today

“We will aim to have a basic framework in place by late summer 2016, with prioritisation of key tasks to make sure our plan is achievable.”

- VCSE building blocks;
- Our relationships with statutory sector;
- A collective vision. Sketch out headlines, and guide us on our thinking.



## Interactive question time



## Is your ability to measure your impact and value...

1. The same



2. Worse



3. Better



## Is collaboration with statutory services and the VCSE sector...

1. The same



2. Worse



3. Better



[Vote Now](#)

## Is the procurement process with Dorset County Council...

1. The same



2. Worse



3. Better



[Vote Now](#)

## Is the commissioning conversation with Dorset County Council...

1. The same



2. Worse



3. Better



# WORKING WITH THE STATUTORY SECTOR



**Nick Warren**



## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Advent of welfare state
- Pioneering role of charities
- Rise and fall of public sector investment



# **IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT**

- Common interests – not just about £
- Shaping policy environment
- The need for mutual understanding



## Interactive question time



## How well would you rate the engagement of Dorset County Council and Dorset Clinical Commission group, with the VCSE sector?

1. Excellent



4%

2. Good



8%

3. Average



61%

4. Poor



27%

## PERFECT STORM

- Austerity, pressure on local Govt & NHS
- Uncertain policy environment - Govt fixation with the economy & Brexit
- Local Govt reorganization – move to unitary, changes in personnel



## **EXAMPLES OF POOR ENGAGEMENT**

- Lack of active feedback (eg after last year's conference)
- Late engagement, when policies and plans are fixed
- Lack of transparency of procurement & commissioning processes (eg POPP and Care Navigators)
- Tendency to 'play safe' with larger contracts/organisations



## **EXAMPLES OF GOOD ENGAGEMENT**

- The Circle building in Sheffield
- Micro commissioning/co-production through SPOCs (Rotherham, Hackney, Dudley)



# Interactive question time



[Vote Now](#)

**Have you been involved in co-producing a service with a statutory agency?**

1. Yes



48%

2. No



52%

# Lessons Learned?



*What is needed to help DCC co-produce more services with the VCSE sector?*



# Using a Whole System Approach to Health & Social Care

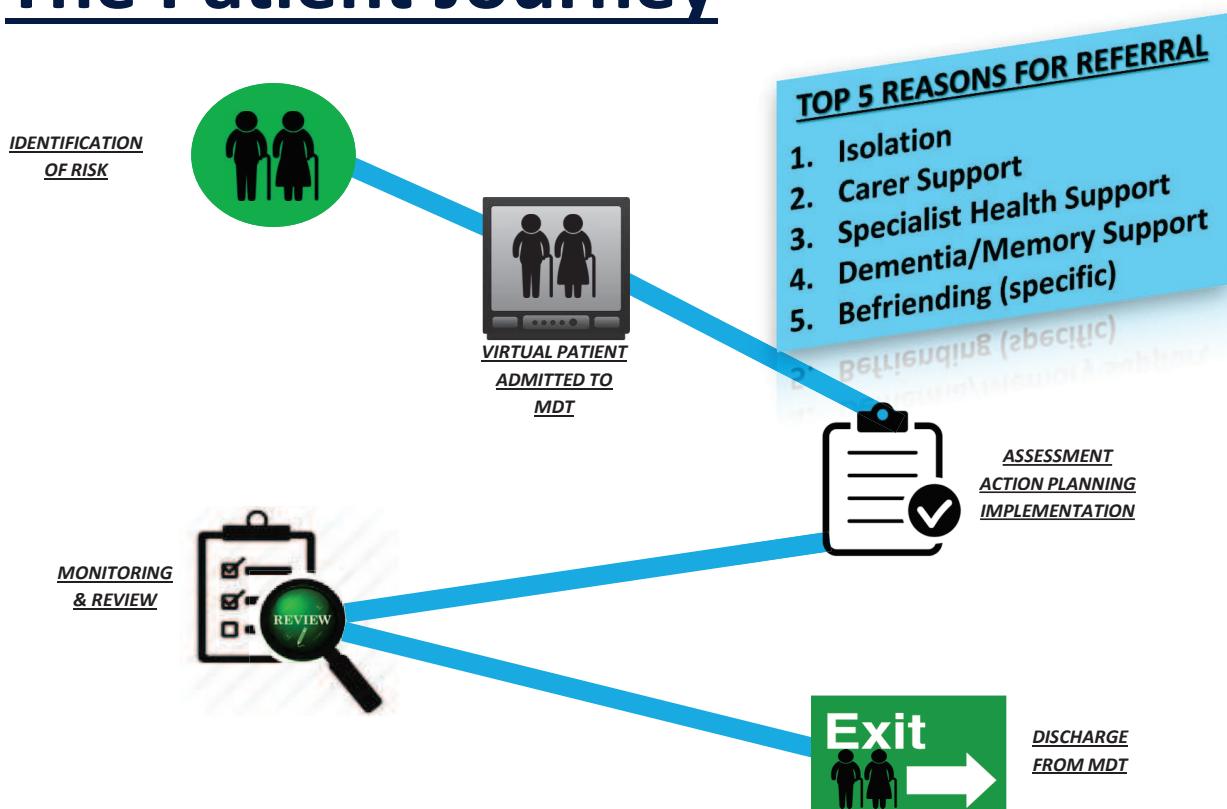
## The Future Vision of the Better Together Programme

“Bringing services together to respond to what is important to the people we serve”

The Dorset-area Partnership is committed to transforming health and social care services across the Dorset area, to enable and deliver a sustainable improvement in health and care outcomes.



## The Patient Journey



# MDT & Patient Feedback

## Support appreciated most by MDT Staff

- Attendance at MDT meetings
- Ability to provide telephone/email IAG outside of meetings to MDT team
- Ability to accept direct referrals, follow-up, action and feedback at MDT meetings

## Patient Feedback – from Review Data

- 100% rated the service as good or excellent
- 100% more aware of where to go for support
- 43% had increased social activity
- 71% felt less isolated



## Outcomes Achieved

- Attended **128** MDT meetings across **27** surgeries and involved in over **1739** patient discussions.
- Direct Patient involvement with **192** patients across Dorset.
- Signposting **138+** VCSE Groups.
- Review of Service Users (7%) demonstrated;
  - **£165,000 of potential savings**

If just 50% saw a similar saving this would equate to;

**– £1,178,571 of potential savings**

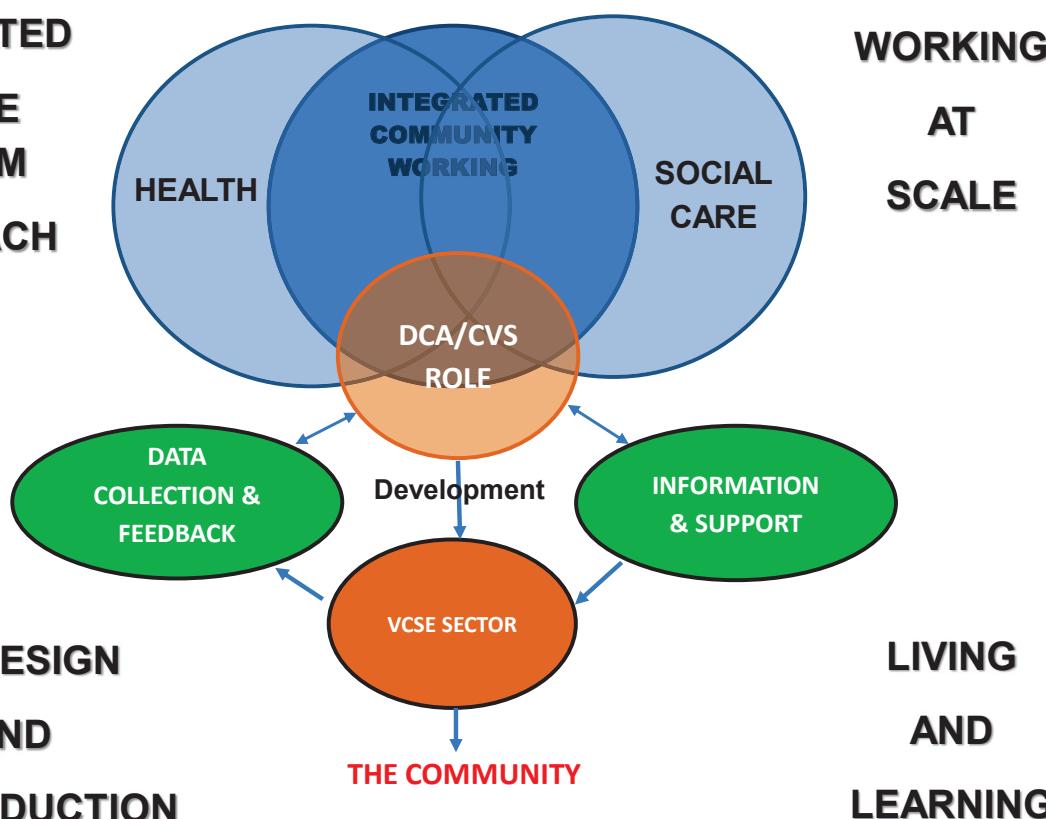




# RECOMMENDATIONS



**INTEGRATED  
WHOLE  
SYSTEM  
APPROACH**



# Interactive question time



[Vote Now](#)

**Can the VCSE sector, in its current format,  
be a part of a whole system approach  
alongside statutory services?**

1. Yes



2. No



# What would enable the VCSE sector to be an equal partner in this process? (vote = most important)

[Vote Now](#)

1. Targeted support for VCSE sector groups  
 2%
2. A change of statutory sector culture/approach  
 31%
3. Sustainable funding for VCSE sector  
 22%
4. Infrastructure support to connect different partners together  
 27%
5. Support for Health & Social Care professionals to utilise VCSE sector support available  
 18%

# THANK YOU

*"If current statutory providers do not have support to navigate their way around the myriad of services the VCSE sector has to offer, then there will be no change and we will not be close to realising the great potential of the VCSE sector."*

DCA 2016





# Building a Local Entrepreneurial Economy

Candida Blaker, CLS in Dorset Programme Manager

[Candida.blaker@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:Candida.blaker@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk)



## What is it?



Community-led economic change.

[Home](#) | [What's REconomy?](#) | [Inspiring enterprises](#) | [Economic enablers](#) | [Leadership projects](#) | [News & Blogs](#) | [Not from UK?](#) | [Contact us](#)

Transition groups (and others) are already running brilliant, inspiring projects and enterprises that create new livelihoods, and show new ways of providing essential goods and services. We're here to help you get started on your own activity – find your interest area below...



### Inspiring enterprises

Interested in starting a new Transition-oriented livelihood or business? Here are some inspiring ideas and pointers towards support.



### Economic enablers

Examples of important projects and activities that provide support and infrastructure to help new and existing local businesses thrive.



### Leadership projects

Want to change the whole system? Here's help to make a case for change and build local partnerships to create shared vision & strategy.

**My Community**

locality



# What are we hoping to achieve?



- Maximum benefit to the local economy - quantify
- More resilient local economy
- Social & community benefits
- Environmental benefits too
- Development of enterprises and a route map to support them
- Shifting to a culture of giving, to reduce reliance on grants, making best use of community resources .



## What are we doing?

### Research e.g.



- What food related industry do we have; how many people do these businesses employ?
- How much do we spend on food and drink?
- What do our local suppliers produce? How much is spent on food that is grown, reared or processed locally?
- What are the barriers to scaling up production, to selling more produce locally, and what opportunities for increasing sales?

Involving various sectors of the community - events



# What are we finding?



- 300 businesses, employ 2,000 people; worth **£99.2m** per year.
- 81% are micro-businesses, employing fewer than nine people.
- **27% of employed people in the Bridport area work in the food & drink sector.** 2 x the national average, 17% for W. Dorset.
- Annual expenditure on food and drink in Bridport **£32m**
- If just 10% (£2.6m) of current supermarket spend (£26m) was instead spent in our local independents, an additional £6.5m would be re-spent into the local economy. **This could create 54 additional jobs.**



## Why in Bridport, now?



### BRIDPORT SOUP



W.I. HALL, BRIDPORT  
SEPTEMBER 29TH  
FROM 7PM

JOIN THE CROWD - PAY WHAT YOU  
FEEL + BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE  
PITCH - VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE  
ON FORADS AT T.C.C. OR LIBRARY

THE FOOD  
ASSEMBLY

KITCHEN  
COLLECTIVE

STIR

Communities  
Living Sustainably

LIVE CROWDFUNDING

# An opportunity and a challenge



A great way forward for DCA ....



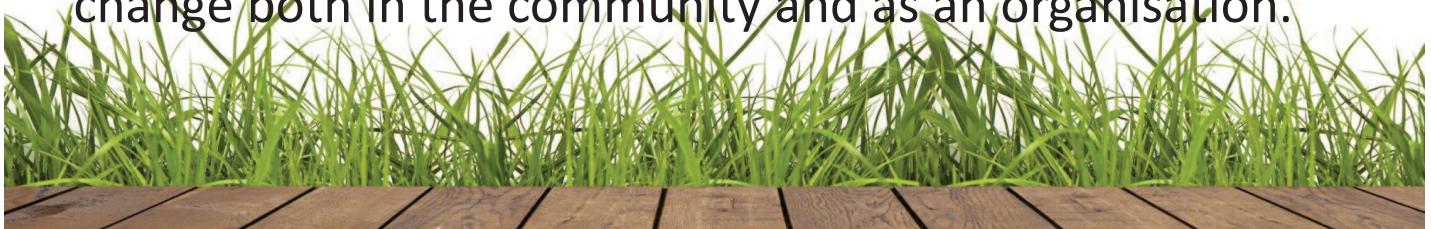
Hold the process and be a catalyst and yet truly community-led?



Role in raising funds and disbursing them?

Activity that isn't always 'paid' yet doesn't rely overly on volunteers?

Embedded in the community, and embrace a culture change both in the community and as an organisation.



# **DORSET COMMUNITIES FORUM (DCF)**



## **CAROLINE BUXTON**



## **Dorset Communities Forum**

**Formed in 2011 to:**

- Identify key needs of our local communities
- Provide a collective voice
- Identify solutions

**Members include :**

- 'Infrastructure and support' agencies such as DCA, Citizens Advice in Dorset, Volunteer Centre Dorset, Dorset Youth Association (which collectively have contact with over 2,000 local organisations)
- Community Partnerships (West, North, East, Christchurch, Weymouth, Portland)
- Local Authorities – community planning staff from districts, Dorset County Council staff from Chief Executive's Department
- Other stakeholders, eg. Dorset Community Foundation, DAPTC



## Dorset Communities Forum

Activities include:

- Keeping communities informed: exchange of information and issues, sharing of learning, between voluntary and community sectors and local authorities
- Acting as ‘watchdog’ on issues of importance to the sector eg. funding, service developments, de/commissioning
- Contributing to the development of Outcomes Based Accountability and new models for delivery of public services (eg. Living & Learning Centres)
- Providing reps on statutory Boards: Health & Wellbeing, Domestic Violence
- Sharing district level data with funders (eg. Big Lottery) to ensure they have evidence-based funding strategies



## Dorset Community Forum

### CHALLENGES:

- Losing Community Partnerships
- Closure of local organisations due to funding cuts
- Communicating effectively on behalf of a diverse sector
- ‘Patchy’ engagement with DCC directorates
- Local Government re-organisation

### OPPORTUNITIES:

- Orgs with good local knowledge, trust, experience, track record
- Ability to be responsive and innovative
- We have the same aims: a strong and successful Dorset where residents are **Safe, Healthy, Independent and Prosperous**
- Local Government re-organisation?



## Dorset Community Forum

We will be asking you to rank the following roles in order of importance:

- ✓ Keeping you informed
- ✓ Enabling VCSE participation
- ✓ Communicating our 'story'
- ✓ Acting as 'watchdog'
- ✓ Contributing to new models of service delivery
- ✓ Sharing data with funders

## Interactive question time



Enter  
Numbers  
and Press  
Send

**Please rank the following DCF Roles by order of importance, voting for your preferred choice first:**

- 1.** Enabling VCSE participation
- 2.** Contributing to new models of service delivery -
- 3.** Communicating our 'story'
- 4.** Keeping you informed
- 5.** Acting as 'watchdog'
- 6.** Sharing data with funders

*Results shown in order of preference*

# Unitary Status

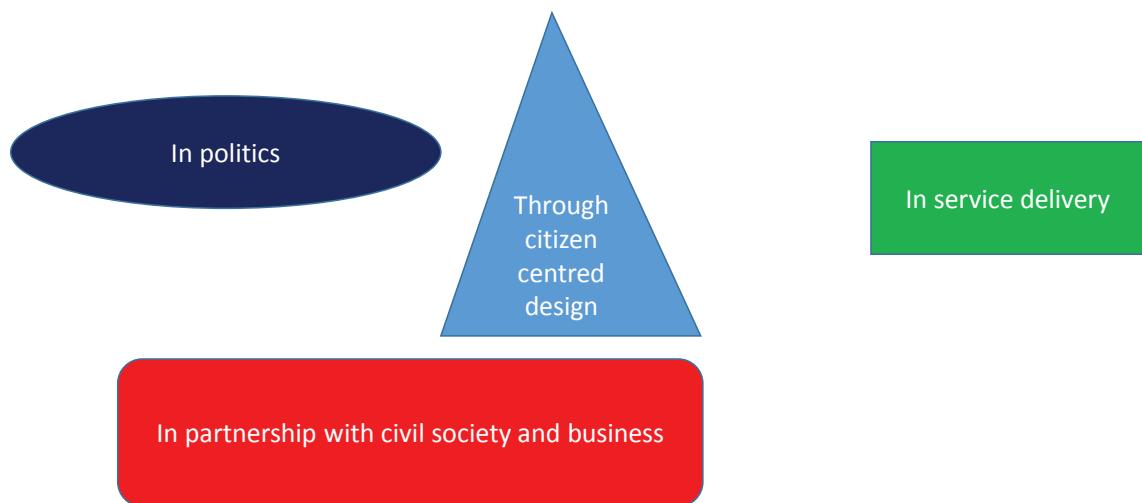


Gerry Stoker  
@profstoker

Or how to make something irrelevant interesting

- Real issues:
- Pressures on local spending
- Democratic deficit
- Economic change
- Need to join up across the public services and governance
- Relevance of Unitary Status:  


# Unitary only important if it leads to a different way of doing things



## GEELONG

- Citizens' Jury to decide future shape of local council
- 100 people representing cross-section of population selected by random lot
- Given evidence and time to reflect
- Asked to produce both mainstream and **aspirational** proposals



# Greater Manchester: Three Early Lessons



City region; elected mayor, new powers

- Transforming service delivery with place based focus
- Bringing in the resources of the third sector vital
- The counter-intuitive message is you are more likely to reach goals, achieve tangible outcomes, and do this in a good timescale, if these things not overly determined from the start.

## Interactive question time



[Vote Now](#)

Unitary process should kick start a commitment to doing politics/policy differently.

1. AGREE



2. DISAGREE



[Vote Now](#)

Unitary process should develop goals through citizen centred design not through imposing goals.

1. AGREE



2. DISAGREE



[Vote Now](#)

Unitary process should make better use of energy of civic sector.

1. AGREE



100%

2. DISAGREE

0%

Enter  
Numbers  
and Press  
Send

Unitary process should be a trigger for more imaginative ways of mixing representative and participative democracy:

Please select all the statements you AGREE with and press SEND.

1. Lets have citizens panels selected by lot for communities;



81.8%

2. Let's have a citizen jury to interview councillor candidates;



78.8%

3. Let's have a slim line council that uses Web 2.



63.6%

(% = Percentage of Voters)