

# PASSIONATE PEOPLE MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

Learning from our event workshops



## WORKSHOP A: Resilient Communities

York City Council shared the approach they're taking to work in real partnership with local people and communities. A long-term focus on collaboration and strengths in York has created a community resilience that has come into its own in recent times of Covid challenges and crisis.

**We had a vision to deliver a new model that was about the city becoming more caring, more connected, more passionate [with] public sector professionals acting with more humility, love and care in their duties...We have invested in evidence based practice that supports the ABCD and person-centred approach**

Joe Micheli - Head of Commissioning @ City of York Council

### WORKSHOP POLL

**63%** of delegates said their council actively invested in the strengths of local communities

### DELEGATES TOLD US...

- Evaluation should focus on improving, not proving
- Co-production and designing the citizen in, not out, is key to creating strong communities
- We need to stop fixing problems and focus on strengths

## WORKSHOP B: Local Economies

Community Catalysts and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) led the session which outlined the underpinning principles behind community wealth building and the potential impact on local economies of social care funding spent on community services and supports.

Community Wealth Building [advocates] for a more activist position within Adult Social Care Commissioning where commissioners start to deliberately interfere and disrupt social care markets...to deliver greater choice, quality and control for service users and to ensure any providers of social care are generative - those that generate wealth and keep it in the community

Tom Lloyd-Goodwin - Associate Director, Policy @ CLES

### WORKSHOP POLL

**58%** of delegates agreed that their local public bodies spent money on services from local businesses

### DELEGATES TOLD US...

Community is not a magic, free resource...it's not just a cheap option!

## WORKSHOP C: Community Businesses Can

Community businesses, Forge Urban Revival and Sutton Hill Community Trust, talked about their work and the impact on local people and communities while Telford and Wrekin Council shared their approach of investing in community wellbeing hubs and community businesses.

**[Offering space to the Cottage Crew] wasn't simply about us agreeing to house a group, like anything, the people using the support and the arts and crafts needed to choose themselves...it was essentially if they felt the space was right for them...and when we have the right space how can we put the right processes in place. [We looked at] how do we make this building, these services, available for everyone**

Ann Johnson - Managing Director @ Forge Urban Revival

**One of the beauties is people walk in and see this group of people having a good time, doing their art and craft, having lunch and very often will come over and say 'can we join?'. They don't see it as a service, they're seen as just part of a group of individuals within the community coming together to enjoy each other's company**

Terry Yarnell - CEO @ Sutton Hill Community Trust

Community Catalysts were able to come into contact with a range of inspirational people that we may not reach as a Local Authority and they've nurtured them and supported them and developed ideas for businesses with a social agenda

John Cocker - Health Improvement Practitioner @ Telford & Wrekin Council

### DELEGATES TOLD US...

- Giving people the choice and support to take control and do what they want can have real benefits
- A large number of people can be supported by small community businesses
- It's important to empower communities!

## WORKSHOP D: Councils Create

Central Bedfordshire Council spoke about their focus on positive systems change and their partnership with Community Catalysts and shared more about the Local Authority systems and cultures that are vital to creating real choice for people who need care or support to live their lives.

When people connected [through the Community Catalysts speed networking sessions] they could have that relationship moment, that sense of community [and] understand each other...and they started to find solutions - that was the opening door moment that allowed us to shift some of that culture away from 'it's a bit risky to do that' to actually saying 'there's some really cool solutions here'

Ian Hanton - Development & Commissioning Manager @ Central Bedfordshire Council

### WORKSHOP POLL

**80%** of delegates said their local council actively invested in support for community enterprises and solutions

### DELEGATES TOLD US...

Sharing stories can help people to understand new ways of working and influence systems and cultures

It's been really fantastic to have such a good group and network of people who can support me being an individual carer. Since I met [the Community Catalyst] it's been a very good experience for myself to have all the knowledge and experience from him as well

Leanne White - Enterprise Leader @ Dear Health

## WORKSHOP E: Connecting People

Dr Lennane and leaders of the community enterprise Rejuvenate! and the Ross Community Development Trust discussed the impact of social isolation on people and society and shared different ways in which they are helping others in their communities to connect.

**A lot of stuff I see as a GP is around housing or benefits. Loneliness being the major thing we deal with [and] disconnection from society...As a GP I'm one of the only people that some people know. Sometimes people are coming to see me with a medical problems and it isn't necessarily medical, it might be they're just reaching out for human connection**

Dr Simon Lennane - GP and PCN Clinical Director in Ross-on-Wye

### WORKSHOP POLL

**90%** of delegates knew of organisations and movements in their area that helped people to connect and collaborate with each other

### WORKSHOP POLL

**63%** of delegates experienced loneliness in the last six months

### DELEGATES TOLD US...

Commissioners need to recognise the value of relationships and human to human connection

## WORKSHOP F: Gaps in Support

Powys Council and a local community enterprise talked about the work they are doing with Community Catalysts and the positive impact it is having on addressing the issue of gaps in care and support for people, particularly those who live in rural areas.

There is something in the work that Community Catalysts do that I would describe as a 'disrupter' in a very constructive sense. Some of the work...is challenging us at the Local Authority about how we do business - that is processes, challenging traditional ways of working e.g. with Direct Payments

Martin Heuter - Health & Social Care Change Manager @ Powys Council

### WORKSHOP POLL

**53%** of delegates thought their council helped local people and organisations fill gaps in care services

### DELEGATES TOLD US...

It's important to work with the hospital discharge process so there are no gaps between support when people come home.

I'm not rushing in to a half an hour window when I've got to do everything [the person I'm supporting] requires in that window and run out. You're able to form relationships with people which is so invaluable

Maria Pritchard - Enterprise Leader @ Brynteg Bespoke Care & Support

## WORKSHOP G: Community Collaboration

Power to Change and Made in Wigan shared creative ways that people and organisations in communities are working together to solve local problems and build on local strengths. The workshop focused on the power of connections and what this looks like in practice.

**We understand there's a need not just for grant funding...particularly at the early stages, it's not just the cash that's needed. Organisations need that capacity strengthening and support and an extra person to talk to about their ideas and the challenges they're facing**

Susie Finlayson - Development Manager @ Power to Change

### WORKSHOP POLL

**65%** of delegates knew community businesses and enterprises in their area that helped people connect and collaborate

When good things happen it's because the community wants it to happen - the community gets involved and puts those things forward

Andy Taylor - Business Development Manager @ Made in Wigan

### DELEGATES TOLD US...

Networking and collaboration are valuable in creating sustainable enterprises