

Supporting People and beyond: the role of the voluntary and community sector

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Main Themes

CSR Settlement for Supporting People

Supporting People & Localism

Social Housing reform

Implications of Localism/Big Society for VCS

CSR – Settlement for Housing: Protecting the Vulnerable

£6.5bn - Supporting People
investment secured over next 4 years

£400m - Homelessness Grant
Funding (area based grant over 4
years)

£725m – Disabled Facilities Grant
(over the next 4 years)

£37.5m - New Places of Change
Programme from April 2012

£200m - Mortgage Rescue Scheme



Supporting People settlement

Government is committed to protecting front-line services for the most vulnerable

Supporting People offers preventive services that reduce cost escalation elsewhere

Spending decisions are made locally in response to local need

12% cut in real terms

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Supporting People	1,625	1,620	1,620	1,590



Supporting People and localism

Supporting People fully devolved programme

Central Government has little leverage to influence SP spend

Effective local accountability must be the primary mechanism for shaping local services and holding local government and other service providers to account

VCS must ensure that Local Authorities are held to account for the delivery of Supporting People services

Supporting People will be paid through Formula Grant with effect from April 2011

Reducing data collection – recent announcement of abolition of National Performance Indicators 141 & 142

Outcomes & Client Record Data – under review

DCLG review of National Statistics

Data collection must be transparent, effective and necessary

Local Authorities and Providers will decide on what data collection is necessary locally

Difficult decisions to be made by Authorities in light of fiscal position

VCS providers need to ensure that they provide VFM/good outcomes and high quality services

DCLG and other partners will continue to support the sector and authorities in ensuring remodelling, re-designing and decommissioning are in line with local strategic needs to minimise slash/burn approach

To strengthen **localism** – giving greater flexibility to local authorities and landlords

To **help those in greatest need** – making sure that support is better focused, and providing the right basic safeguards

To **reduce dependency** – enabling people to improve their situation by working

To make **better use of resources** – allocating existing homes more sensibly, and using funding more innovatively to provide more new housing.



The Coalition is committed to decentralisation, localism, smaller government and bigger society

“Today is the start of a deep and serious reform agenda to take power away from politicians and give it to people.”

David Cameron 18 May

“We need radical change that puts power back in the hands of people”

Nick Clegg 18 May

“I waited impatiently to get my hands on the levers of power. And what do I want to do now I have my hands on those levers? I want to hand over the levers to you.”

Grant Shapps - CIH Speech



A new approach to Localism and scrapping red tape

Reform centralised bureaucratic 'Gov knows best' system
including scrapping system of top down targets

Bringing together nearly all grant funding streams and giving local discretion on how it should be spent.

Reduce targets and regulation – scrapping the Audit Commission

Empower local communities (localism)

- getting local communities involved
- getting local communities to take more responsibility
- getting the voluntary and community sector more integral to running services

Localism/Big Society – what might this mean for the VCS

Key principles: putting communities in charge and getting more for less

Who else could provide services? Could they be split / better packaged? Could quality, accountability and cost be improved?

How could customer facing elements be delivered more responsively and cost effectively?

What could 'professional volunteering' look like in terms of housing related support?

What more can be done to engage individuals and communities in taking control and helping to plan/manage local services?



Whitehall departments considering developing Payment by Results

DCLG in the early stages of considering an approach for SP

Will not be a top down approach but will involve sector and authority in design

Have commenced discussions with LGA and sector representatives

Will require a co-ordinated cross government approach



Conclusion: Big Challenges Over the Next 5 Years

There are some key themes:

- Fiscal constraints: tackling budget deficit
- Committed to protecting vulnerable people
- Decentralisation of power – radical and rapid and big state dead and gone.
- Localism – what does it mean for local authorities and new ways of providing services

Challenging times but are there some opportunities as well as big challenges?