

Welcome to the Festival of possibilities!



A preview of this innovative event from the box of frogs theatre group.

box of frogs are proud and excited to be working in partnership with Sitra to create three “conferences with a difference” in Leeds, Birmingham and London this autumn. They will all focus on the role that personalisation might play in the delivery of future housing related support services.

Since our creation more than six years ago, we have run training and projects across all areas of the housing related support sector, working alongside decision makers, frontline staff and service users to explore best practice, celebrate what works, and initiate change.

With these festivals, we are hoping to combine our practical experience in the field with our zeal for creativity and difference, to produce three memorable events. We know that, at each session, we will meet many experts, including people who use services and know what works for them, and people who operate on the frontline and understand what positive changes can be brought about in people's lives. The conferences also involve people who manage and fund provision across a wide area and appreciate how whole communities can be affected for the better, by well-targeted services. Our aim at these festivals is to create spaces where everyone can share ideas, discuss possibilities, raise questions and come up with some answers.

Our invitation to participate in the creation of these events came on the back of some successful appearances of our theatre group at previous Sitra conferences.

One of the many things that we do as an organisation is to use theatre as a means to spark conversation and generate ideas. We have been working with a dedicated community drama group over the last five

years to create scenes which challenge, question and inspire people. Our actors come from a range of backgrounds and bring with them a multitude of experiences. For example, some have been homeless, some have used drug and alcohol services, some live in sheltered accommodation and some have a physical disability. Our group of actors is changing and growing all the time. Some of the actors you'll meet at the festivals will be “seasoned professionals” who have performed at conferences and events across the country, for others it will be their first time in front of an audience.

Throughout each of the three Festival of Possibilities events, there will be the chance to see our theatre group perform, using scenarios and characters which are all based on real life experiences from people we have worked with. We passionately believe that, by using creative techniques such as theatre and drama effectively, we can initiate conversations from people across the board that will ignite new ideas and ways of working which will benefit all (and we'll also be having a bit of fun during the day and weaving some box of frogs magic here and there!).

We hope that you will leave the day invigorated, excited, with some new contacts and with some new ideas to take housing related support services into the future.

Our actors are already developing the

scenes and characters that you will encounter during the festivals. We don't want to give too much away, but we think you'll be in for a treat. “We've already had some rehearsals and they've been very



productive,” said one of our actors. “I can't wait to be a part of these events. I get a real buzz out of being on stage and in seeing the impact that our work can have on the way people think about services and the people who use them. It feels like we can really make a difference.”

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival of Possibilities.

Find out more

Find out more about box of frogs, visit www.boxoffrogs.org

And if you're interested in attending the festival of ideas and possibilities either as a delegate or to showcase your work visit www.sitra.org/festival_of_ideas or see the advert on the back page of this issue.

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