

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Integrated care: Third Sector engagement and co-responsibility

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A presentation to illustrate how engaging with civic society and empowering people and communities can:

- Better support families to live well in their communities,
- Improve health outcomes and Health Related Quality of Life through exploiting community assets and
- Promote a wider understanding of actions to tackle health inequalities through collaborative learning.

Premise: Charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations of all shapes and sizes already make significant impacts in areas like early intervention, prevention and care, and support for people with complex and multiple conditions. With the right support, there is scope for them to make even more of a difference.

Background: Legislation to implement health and social care integration, passed by the Scottish Parliament in February 2014, came into force on April 1, 2016. This brings together health and social care services under one partnership arrangement for each local authority area.

The Catalan government launched in February, 2014 a new strategy for implementing integrated care between health and social services. This strategy is community and population based, developing enabling drivers (such as ICT, shared commissioning, etc) but primarily establishing local partnerships for integration where all the providers (public, private and third sector...) are involved.

Collaboration and engagement: Because of the development of integrated care partnership models the third sector (both voluntary and community organisations) are increasingly seen as having a pivotal locus in co-designing, co-producing and delivering resilient and sustainable care services. In addition, third sector organisations can and do play a leading role in establishing the context for wider community well-being.

SCVO has collaborated with national and local care providers (public and third sector) to highlight this role through its Building Healthier and Happier Communities programme. BHHC is a fresh approach to improving the health and quality of life of people and communities across Scotland. It is national programme; delivered locally.

The Taula del Tercer Sector, based on their civic engagement and solidarity with vulnerable groups and their willingness to contribute to the general interest, has collaborated with both national and regional authorities in Catalonia, has taken co-responsibility to become an active agent for promoting this transformation.

Proposal: We are committed to a range of other work contributing to the integration agenda and the engagement of communities with the statutory services and (crucially) vice versa. Of increasing significance is the work we are leading on in achieving a step change in digital engagement and inclusion. Our presentation will touch on some of these initiatives, the “win/win” rationale for genuine collaboration and consider the level of, and reasons for success in cross sectoral engagement.

Keywords: community; care; engagement and collaboration; third sector
