



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Innovation Exchange Next Practice Programme launch

A speech by Kevin Brennan MP, Minister for the Third Sector at the Innovation Exchange's launch of the Next Practice Programme at Amnesty International, 13th November 2008

Thank you John [Craig, director of Innovation Exchange] for the introduction and for inviting me to speak today.

This event marks a significant milestone in the Innovation Exchange's work and the start of an important journey for all the organisations here. I am delight to be part of this.

The ideas that you are developing represent some of the third sector's most exciting opportunities. The work that you will undertake as individual projects and through the Next Practice Programme has the potential to not only create valuable opportunities for some of society's most excluded individuals, but also to shape how Government and the third sector thinks about innovation and works together to cultivate it.

I am aware of much of the important work that many of the organisations in this room already deliver. For example, as one of the Office of the Third Sector's Social Enterprise Ambassadors, I know of Craig Dearden-Phillips' incredible work at Speaking Up with people with learning difficulties, disabilities and mental health problems and, as a former Minister at the Department for Children,

Schools and Families, I greatly admire the work of organisations like the Prince's Trust and Timebank.

As many of you are aware, the creation of the Innovation Exchange was one of the Government's 18 commitments in the *Partnership in Public Services Action Plan*, which is led by the Office of the Third Sector.

The action plan reflects the Government's recognition of the highly innovative work of the third sector, but the challenge of scaling up some of the best ideas to achieve their full potential. This is not necessarily a question of enabling the sector to replicate provision, but about developing sustainable projects that deliver the best possible outcomes.

I look forward to hearing how each project develops and your experiences of the Next Practice Programme. More widely, I am keen to consider the overall lessons that can be drawn from the Innovation Exchange about how Government and the third sector can work together to achieve world class public services for everyone.

The work of the Innovation Exchange builds upon the Government's wider vision for the future of public services.

Better public services are at the core of the Government's mission to deliver social justice and increase social mobility. Over the past

decade, our public services have improved across the board, in many cases dramatically so. However, there is much more to do. The current economic context makes the Government's focus on the third sector's role in the development of innovative public services even more pressing. We need to ensure that we continue to strive for world class public services that respond to new and emerging needs. We face challenges times and this is when the best ideas need to come to the fore.

It is in this context, that I announce the appointment of the Rt Hon. Anne McGuire MP as the Cabinet Office's Advisor on Third Sector Innovation.

Anne has extensive experience of both public service reform and the third sector. As the former Minister for Disability, she worked closely with a range of health and social care organisations and has particular expertise in the role that disabled people's organisations play in driving the transformation of health and social care provision. Anne also has extensive experience in the third sector, as a former Deputy Director of the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations and volunteer for adults with learning disabilities. I am delighted to welcome Anne to the Cabinet Office and greatly appreciate her commitment to third sector.

In her new role, Anne will be leading a 12 month programme of work for the Cabinet Office that will have two main elements.

Firstly, Anne will investigate the role that third sector organisations can play in empowering citizens to steer the design and delivery of more personalised public services. This work will focus initially on health and social care services, but then move to consideration of other areas of delivery.

Services need to be designed around people's complex and interrelated needs and reflect their aspirations and lifestyles. The best way to achieve this is to share responsibility with them for the design, delivery and continual improvement of the services that they receive. The third sector, particularly user-led organisations, has an important role to play in facilitating and supporting this process.

Secondly, Anne will undertake a cross-Government project to highlight the value of third sector involvement in the development of public service reform policy.

Third sector organisations with a good understanding of the needs of particular groups of people can help to ground Government policy in people's day-to-day experiences. They can also provide a collective voice for these groups. We want to draw on all these strengths.

This is an important programme of work for the Government and the third sector and I am delighted that Anne will be leading it.

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It builds on the OTS' support of the Innovation Exchange and demonstrates the Government's continuing commitment to harnessing and cultivating the third sector's contribution to the future of public services.

As some of the sector's most innovative organisations, I hope Anne's work will also provide a further opportunity for you to share your learning and work in partnership with Government to achieve better outcomes for everyone.

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