

Devolution: how is it relevant and what can we do?

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VSNW

Voluntary Sector North West

Accountability | Knowledge | Equality

1. Why is devolution happening?

- Current system not working
- National policy model not very effective
- Central government becoming less relevant in people's lives
- Individuals have less say over their lives; disempowering nation/culture
- People deserve better

2. Why is devolution happening?

- Centralisation of power, localisation of blame
- Votes, rewards and appeasement
- Centre has run out of ideas
- Get more political credit for less negotiating individual deals
- Councils want/need economic powers
- Framework for Austerity 2.0

How is devolution relevant?

- GM Combined Authority growing in power
- Shifting power relationships between:
 - National, GM, Council, Health & Social Care structures and Neighbourhoods
- Framework for Austerity
- Developing a new local economic model
- Developing a new public service delivery model

What are the new principles? What does 'good devolution' look like?

- Who looks after equality?
- Where does the welfare state fit into all this?
- What about accountability and democracy?
- How will communities have their say?
- Will communities get some 'devolution' too?
- What about a 'good economy'?
- How do we get our messages across?

Rethinking the future of the voluntary and community sector

- Is there a branding issue? Or does the voluntary and community sector need to change?
- How do we make the case for community-led social and economic change?
- Do we need new ways to understand communities?
- How do we get our messages across?

What's VSNW doing?

1. Devolution events
2. NW VCS provider network
3. Developing sector involvement with:
 - LEPs/Combined Authorities
 - housing associations
 - World of health & social care (Who's Who Directory & workshops)
4. Making the case for:
 - community-led change and resilience
 - VCS infrastructure
 - VCSE role in tackling health inequality
 - VCSE role in local economies
5. Championing 'quality of life', 'joy', and the sector's role

DEVOLUTION, OUR DEVOLUTION:

PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEANING OF DEVOLUTION
FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

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