Ensuring local spending matches local social priorities

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Community Budgets Conference

The triple whammy

- Cuts of £81bn are bad enough but long term pressures for change even greater
- Ageing society, climate change, global warming, growing inequality could add an extra 6% to proportion of GDP on public spending.
- Public services failing to keep up with citizens we have become – agency, expectations & outcomes

Two possible futures…

Retrenchment and residualisation

Citizen engagement and reform

Commission on 2020 Public Services – Our vision

- Focus on long term
- New relationship with citizen, bottom up service redesign, rooted in agency & capability
- Social citizenship basis of a new settlement – resilience reciprocity, responsibility
- Social value co-created by citizens & services
- Aim is social productivity – mobilising state &social resource to achieve social outcomes
- Requires powerful role for civil society and reformed state

A shift in culture:
from social security, to social productivity

- think people not services; focus on relationships
- understand, mobilise and use citizen resource
- cultivate reciprocity and trust, build resilience

A shift in finance:
reconnecting finance with purpose

- transparent finances
- think about resources across the life-cycle
- partnership funding models

A shift in power: from the centre to citizens

- re-balance the model - start with citizens
- democratise commissioning, pluralise delivery
- decentralised political structures enable this

Local social priorities

Citizen experience

- Social networks analysis - understand where citizens access valued help, formal & informal.
- Fit with social institutions - map where & how citizens access formal services, & relationship to public resource allocation
- Locality funding flow analysis - total neighborhood, resource use, who gains from this, employment, service use etc

Citizen engagement

- Deliberative process for determining priorities in context of cuts, create local debate & consider establishing Citizens Jury or local Commission
- Consultation about threatened services must involve citizens in full range of potential alternatives to closure, especially for public realm services

Citizen redesign in practice

Enable Integration and new citizen models

- Develop bottom up neighborhood commissioning of integrated services (LIS) like Hartlepool
- After consultation & network analysis focus services around most valued local service hubs (eg children's centre, library)
- Create social ownership structure around valued services hubs
- Explore potential for social finance for local social priorities
- Commission for outcomes with local social providers, creating new social market
- Introduce strategic place-based commissioning

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