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**Chris Hollins, Independent Chair,
Third Sector Leeds**

June 2021

In what's been perhaps the most difficult year any of us can remember, it feels as if horizons are beginning to open up again with the spring. At Third Sector Leeds we believe we stand at a cross-roads, perhaps a new Beveridge moment. The time has come to push on a number of fronts; for action around the climate, for fairer economy and for a society that is better at recognising and addressing race (and other) inequalities.

TSL's role is to work with our partners to make the case for a more resilient third sector that is seen as a key part of building a city that is better for everyone. In this edition of Round-Up we're looking at some of the work TSL has been doing to make sure that the third sector moves closer to the key conversations about the future.

In this round up we talk about:

[Statement of Principles for Partnering in Strategic Programmes](#)

In Leeds we have strong partnerships with our public sector colleagues built over many years. However, we have the sense that with some tweaks to our relationship with key decision makers the sector could achieve much more.

[West Yorkshire Economic Recovery and Devolution](#)

With the election of a metro Mayor for West Yorkshire, and with other changes such as the re-organisation of the health service (see below), Third Sector Leeds thinks that the West Yorkshire 'footprint' will become increasingly important in the future.

[Health Reform](#)

It's an exciting time in Health with major reforms underway which may help to get more resources to the frontline, and mark a move away from traditional competitive tendering towards new partnerships which will manage the allocation of resources.

[Green Activity Providers Forum](#)

Some of the organisations working in 'green activities' feel that there is a need to get organised so they can work together more effectively and have a greater voice, so Third Sector Leeds is working with Forum Central to support the development of a new forum.

[Work on Inclusion, Equality and Diversity](#)

This work seeks to enable third sector organisations and people working in the third sector to begin to recognise 'microaggressions' when they occur and gives some pointers on ways to address them.

[Statement of Principles for Partnering in Strategic Programmes](#)

In Leeds we have strong partnerships with our public sector colleagues built over many years. However, we have the sense that with some tweaks to our relationship with key decision makers the sector could achieve much more.

In some policy areas it feels as though the role of the third sector is only considered once the most significant parts of programmes have already been decided.

We don't think that the third sector is always the right place for strategic programmes to be delivered, but we do think that a conversation about where our strengths could be harnessed could be picked up earlier in programme design.

To make this point we have recently launched a [Statement of Principles](#) which sets out our ask of policy makers. Some of the key points made in this are:

- Talk to the third sector's collective voice bodies about what's planned right at the beginning
- Understand what the third sector is good at
- Think about ring-fencing areas of delivery for the third sector
- Give the third sector time to scale up to new challenges.

[Read the Principles Here](#)

How can you help:

We want to shine a light on those occasions where you feel that you've been part of a conversation about the future not just a deliverer of services.

If you have any examples ring or email: Richard.Warrington@val.org.uk or 07990 812 652.

[West Yorkshire Economic Recovery and Devolution](#)

With the election of a metro Mayor for West Yorkshire, and with other changes such as the re-organisation of the health service (see below), Third Sector Leeds thinks that the West Yorkshire 'footprint' will become increasingly important in the future. We recently wrote a blog about this: [Why the City Region Matters for the Third Sector](#)

Our Leadership Group member, Kate Hainsworth, and our Independent Chair,

Chris Hollins have been arguing that two of the key bodies, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and the Local Enterprise Partnership should have a specific focus on the third sector.

Having made a broad statement of commitment to the third sector at a meeting in January, WYCA have now endorsed a series of '*possible early win interventions*' that could help the third sector build its capacity and be more effective in its work with communities:

- Capital investment in community hubs (community managed buildings and the organisations that run them from which community activity takes place)
- Work to support digital inclusion:
- building on the success of 100% digital in Leeds to build capacity in communities and the third sector
- Developing new ways for the third sector to have a voice at the sub-regional level
- Building capacity in the third sector;
- mentoring from business,
- business advice for social enterprises
- support for third sector organisations to develop new social businesses
- Developing social prescribing further
- Developing a 'good work' standard organisations to sign up to

You can [read the full papers](#) that set out these proposals here or for a briefer read we have separated out the main relevant information [here](#).

The TSL Leadership Group has debated these proposals and have fed back that we think that they are the right start towards enabling the third sector to play a greater role in economic recovery. We look forward to working closely with the LEP and with our partners across West Yorkshire to move from proposals to delivery.

How can you help:

Let us know whether there are any areas of work missing from the list above that could have a major positive impact on the third sector and communities.

Also let us know what we should think about if/when it comes to shaping these interventions richard.warrington@val.org.uk

Health Reform

It's an exciting time in Health with major reforms underway which may help to get more resources to the frontline, and mark a move away from traditional competitive tendering towards new partnerships which will manage the allocation of resources.

The outline of three spatial levels of the new health system (West Yorkshire, Leeds, and neighbourhood level) is just emerging but a lot of the detail about how the system will work needs to be put in place.

We have produced [a briefing paper here](#) that sets out the key points and the opportunities and challenges as we see them. We have been working really closely with Forum Central and we delivered a well attended joint event on 11 May to help members that aren't so familiar with these changes to understand these a bit better.

Health Reform Update

How can you help:

If your organisations works in Health and Care, or you wish to work in this field in the future you should check out the work [Forum Central](#) is doing in this area and contact them to make your voice heard.

Green Activity Providers Forum

The third sector makes a contribution to environmental sustainability in many ways. Some organisations focus first on developing green solutions – insulating houses or providing the infrastructure for re-using and recycling, whilst others focus on seeking to shift climate policy.

There is a third group of third sector organisations who see their role as linking

communities to the natural world around them as a way to improve both the environment and people's health and lifestyle.

Some of the organisations working in 'green activities' feel that there is a need to get organised so they can work together more effectively and have a greater voice, so Third Sector Leeds is working with Forum Central to support the development of a new forum.

The forum held an event on the 5 May with green activity providers to explore collaboration and future steps and a steering group has been established to take this work and actions forward. Here is [an update from this workshop](#).

How can you help:

Let us know all the fantastic work your organisation does to link people with green spaces and their environment richard.warrington@val.org.uk

Next Practice Brief and Work on Inclusion, Equality and Diversity

One of TSL's priorities for 2021 is to promote better Inclusion, Equality and Diversity practice in the third sector. We are working closely with [Forum Central](#) and plan to develop a shared bank of resources to enable members to develop their approach as well as looking at whether we can develop a whole sector approach to monitoring diversity and analysing progress.

Over the last few months TSL has been working with the Culturally Diverse Communities Hub (*interim name*) on a publication that looks at Microaggressions and how to address them in the workplace. We think that focusing on creating a culture that is welcoming where negative stereotypes are recognised and addressed is a good place to start.

The document below seeks to enable third sector organisations and people working in the third sector to begin to recognise 'microaggressions' when they

occur and gives some pointers on ways to address them.

Microaggressions in the Workplace

How can you help:

Our next practice brief will focus on diverse and positive recruitment practices and we'd love to hear from you about the challenges you face in increasing the diversity of your workforce and the approaches that have worked for you.

If you have examples you wish to share we'll use them to add to the resource bank as it gets established richard.warrington@val.org.uk

Want to share good news from your community?

Doing Good Leeds is a great place to share your successes and promote the work of the third sector in building strong and resilient communities in Leeds.

[Click here](#) to register and take the first step in sharing your news, events and training.
