

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

How can a healthier, more socially just society with vibrant, caring communities be built in the context of dwindling public funds? This paper is about how the aspirations of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act along with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act can be achieved, looking at realistic and practical approaches with a focus on social care.

Projects carried out in isolation will have limited impact

Firstly the paper explores the concept of 'wellbeing' and how wellbeing is achieved. It then goes on to explore some of the practical ways in which individuals, families and communities can be supported. It argues that projects carried out in isolation will always have limited impact and will not lead to systemic change nor the building of resilience in individuals, families or communities. In other words, doing sophisticated, cutting edge person centred planning with individuals will have limited impact if the family and community with which they live are not able to be inclusive, supportive and enabling. Equally, great community projects are not enough if very vulnerable individuals are not supported.

Bespoke solutions with individuals, families and communities mean getting it right first time thereby reducing waste and costs.

Systemic change is rarely achieved because working in silos can be perceived to be easier to comprehend, organise and deliver. This paper aims to show how systemic change can be implemented and shows that it is not a daunting utopian ideal. It also emphasises that rolling out large scale programmes with no regard to local context is an expensive mistake.

Coproducing social outcomes, based on what matters to people rather than coproducing services needs to be a much greater focus.

Organisations and institutions focus time and energy on consulting about their strategies and services; in more recent years they have been looking at way to coproduce services. However, this paper argues that more systemic change will be achieved if the focus is on the wellbeing of people and communities rather than services. Services can then be shaped around people and communities in a way that is supportive rather than undermining.

Taking a more placed-based, relational approaches, are of fundamental importance if we are to achieve sustainable wellbeing.

Finally, the paper sets out the challenge to both the public and voluntary sectors to invest in people and communities whilst reducing unnecessary costs the recommendations show how:

- The voluntary sector, local and national government can move towards empowering individuals, families and communities, **simultaneously** in a more skilful and adaptable way than ever before.
- Governments can develop a new approach to accountability that enables leadership and innovation at all levels rather than stifling it.