Changing Landscapes for the Third Sector

An ESRC-funded Knowledge Exchange Project
Plan for the day

11.00  Introduction
11.20  Karl Wilding: *Here comes the flood? The changing landscape for charities and voluntary action*
12.00  Workshops
13.15  LUNCH
14.00  Workshops
15.15  Bren Neale: *Work in and beyond Changing Landscapes*
15.45  Close
The ‘Changing Landscapes’ project

• Aim: to bring together insights from a network of recent qualitative longitudinal research projects in the third sector.

• Undertaken by:
  – Timescapes at the University of Leeds
  – Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) at the University of Birmingham
  – National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

• Involves:
  – Data sharing and archiving
  – Knowledge exchange (across the network of studies, and with policy-makers and practitioners)
  – Secondary analysis (using data from ‘Pathways Through Participation’ and ‘Real Times’), and
  – Research synthesis of published papers and reports from the studies in the network (c.1200+ pages; 450,000+ words!)
Network projects

1. **Real Times: an in-depth study of third sector organisations over time**
   (TSRC Birmingham, led by Rob Macmillan)

2. **Pathways Through Participation: What creates and sustains active citizenship?**
   (NCVO, with IVR and Involve, led by Veronique Jochum)

3. **The Opportunities and Challenges of the Changing Public Services Landscape for the Third Sector in Scotland: A Longitudinal Study**
   (Edinburgh/Edinburgh Napier, led by Stephen Osborne)

4. **Third Sector Trends Study**
   (Durham, led by Tony Chapman and Fred Robinson)

5. **Employment Relations in the Voluntary Sector / Personalisation and the Voluntary Sector Workforce**
   (Strathclyde, led by Ian Cunningham)

6. **Recession Watch**
   (Institute for Voluntary Action Research, led by Ben Cairns).
Unfolding tales of voluntary action

One
‘Divine intervention…’

Case study ‘Larch’ – a relatively deprived village in the north of England, mid-2010

Rob Macmillan
Third Sector Research Centre
February 2014

Unfolding tales of voluntary action

Two
‘The boss’

Case study ‘Hawthorn’ – a family support project in a town in the north of England, mid-2010

Rob Macmillan
Third Sector Research Centre
April 2014

More to come...
Project themes

1. **Sustainability** – the reproduction and development of organisations, activities and services over time

2. **Independence** - negotiating the tensions between mission and ethos-driven social action, and delivering contracted services

3. **Hybridisation** – the purported trend towards hybrid, innovative and transformational organisational forms and financial models

4. **Participation** – the changing hopes, trajectories, expectations and demands on those taking on unpaid roles in the sector

5. **Inter-organisational relationships** - how organisations relate to others in their specific geographical contexts and service fields

6. **Impact** – the use of tools and frameworks for demonstrating outcomes and effectiveness
Workshops

1. Sustainability – a holy grail? (Ian Cunningham)
2. Independence – is it a myth? (Matthew Dutton and Valerie Edgell)
3. Participation – why get involved when we’re all exhausted and it makes no difference? (Veronique Jochum and Angela Ellis Paine)
4. Inter-organisational relationships – competing and collaborating together? (Ben Cairns)
5. Governance – the key ingredient? (Tony Chapman)
6. Demonstrating impact – whose drumbeat are we dancing to? (Rob Macmillan)