

Participle

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

Participle is interested in creating new types of public services, and saving money by doing so. The leading partners are Charles Leadbeater (ex- No 10 Policy Unit), Hugo Mannasei (ex- NESTA) and Hilary Cottam (ex-Design Council). Members will receive a presentation from Hugo Mannasei.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the presentation and discuss the implications for local government.

Action

As directed by the Forum.

Contact officer:

Philip Mind

Position:

Senior Policy Consultant, LG Group

Phone no:

020 7664 3243

E-mail:

philip.mind@local.gov.uk

Participle

Background

1. Participle advocate a different approach to service delivery: based on individual's capabilities rather than their needs, networks rather than institutions, families and communities rather than individuals.
2. This leads them to some interesting insights about dependency – for example, needs assessments for public services incentivise people to exaggerate their needs to secure services and remain in need to carry on receiving them.
3. The extracts below – from the Participle website (in italics) - provide a feel for their projects.
4. Participle has worked with Brighton and Hove and Croydon councils on a youth project called LOOPS.
 - 4.1 *Loops starts from a new place. We see young people, not as a costly group at risk of negative experiences, to be protected, but rather as a potential resource, for each other, the wider community and society. Through our work with young people, their families and communities, and drawing on international best practice and research we have developed a clear perspective on what constitutes the 'good' adolescence. The good adolescence is not just about young people – it is about relationships and connections to the world around young people. It is about building a broad set of capabilities rather than a narrow set of attainments and it is about the capacity to put these relationships and capabilities within a bigger frame.*
5. Participle have worked with Swindon council on families with complex needs and have given presentations to the places who are developing community budgets to tackle this issue.
 - 5.1 *In 2009, Swindon Borough Council, Participle and a number of local families developed and prototyped a highly successful framework to support families in chronic crisis to build new lives. This new approach is known as the LIFE Programme (building new Lives for Individuals and Families to Enjoy);*
 - 5.2 *LIFE was developed by families for families. The Participle team rented a house on an estate in Swindon, and spent 6 months living in the community, as well as shadowing front-line workers. We initially worked*

Item 1

with 12 families over several months to develop and prototype LIFE. It is now being piloted over a year with 30 families, to be completed in September 2010.

6. With Southwark council Participle have developed Circles - a new approach to ageing.
 - 6.1 *Since September 2007 we have been working in a unique public-private partnership with Southwark Council, Sky and the Department for Work & Pensions, to design new services that will improve the quality of life and well-being of older people. Working with over 250 older people, we first developed Southwark Circle, a membership organisation that helps people take care of household tasks, forge social connections and find new directions in life. Open to all, regardless of levels of need or income, Circles is now a model of how future services might look across Britain.*