



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# **Continuity and change in an era of instability: developing a shared agenda for voluntary action research and practice**



**14 February 2019**

**BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action, Birmingham**

**B5 6DR**

# Welcome

The Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) aims to enhance our knowledge of the sector through independent and critical research, giving us a better understanding of the value of the sector and how this can be maximised. We work closely with practitioners, policy makers, and other academics to gain input into our research and explore its findings. Our current and recent funders include Barrow Cadbury, the Economic and Social Research Council, the European Union, the Leverhulme Trust, the Local Trust/Big Local and the National Institute for Health Research.

This year, we are celebrating the Third Sector Research Centre's tenth birthday. To mark the occasion, and to reaffirm our commitment to working with the voluntary sector, we have planned a series of engagement activities, centred on a full day workshop organised in collaboration with BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action.

This workshop will bring together leading academics, policy makers, practitioners and funding bodies to share learning and thinking around major trends and developments affecting voluntary action now and in the future. It will explore these issues at the national and local level, across the voluntary sector as a whole and within specific fields of activity.

The day will be informed by cross-cutting findings distilled from the past ten years of TSRC's extensive research portfolio and key insights from national and regional representatives. We will ask all participants to critically reflect on the day's themes in light of their own experiences. Discussion-based sessions will draw on this collective expertise to explore how existing research evidence could help navigate current challenges and identify the research needs of the future. This is a chance to take stock, a space for reflection, and an opportunity to shape a new shared agenda for voluntary sector research and practice.

We will be tweeting about this event from the account @3rdSectorRC, #TSRC10

We hope you enjoy the day.



John Mohan  
Professor of Social Policy and Director  
Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham

## Programme

**10.00-10.30**      **Arrival and registration**      **ATRIUM**

**10.30-10.45**      **Welcome and introductions**      **Rm 4/5/6**

*John Mohan, Professor of Social Policy and Director, TSRC, University of Birmingham*

*Brian Carr, Chief Executive, BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action*

**10.45-11.15**      **Opening keynote: where is the sector and how can research help it get better**

*Dan Corry, Chief Executive, NPC (New Philanthropy Capital)*

**11.15-12.45**      **Navigating continuity and change: what have we learned?**

This session will begin with lightning talks by researchers involved in the ongoing work of TSRC.

<b>Third sector policy and infrastructure: unsettlement, de-coupling and transition</b>	<i>Rob Macmillan, Principal Research Fellow, Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, Sheffield Hallam University</i>
<b>Change and stability in the third sector: what does quantitative evidence tell us?</b>	<i>John Mohan, Professor of Social Policy and Director, TSRC</i>
<b>The indivisible continuity of change: ten years in the life of third sector organisations</b>	<i>Angela Ellis Paine, Research Fellow, TSRC</i>
<b>Third Sector Leadership: who, what, why and how (to improve it)?</b>	<i>James Rees, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership, Open University</i>

Round table discussions and questions for the panel will initiate a collective conversation that will continue throughout the day.

**12.45-13.30**      **Lunch**      **ATRIUM & 4/5/6**

**13.30-14.30**      **Delving deeper: sharing knowledge of current issues**      **Rms 3,4,5,6,8**

A choice of participatory workshops will allow deeper exploration of topics that concern those involved in researching, funding, commissioning, supporting and delivering voluntary sector services. Academic and practitioner speakers will introduce topics and all delegates will be invited to share their views and reflect on implications for research and practice.

<b>Advocacy in context: how can advocacy and service delivery fit in the modern voluntary sector?</b>	<i>Elizabeth Cookingham Bailey, Research Fellow, TSRC</i> <i>Phil Child, Research Fellow, TSRC</i>	<b>Rm4</b>
<b>Great expectations: what does continuity and change in volunteering mean for its ability to deliver?</b>	<i>Angela Ellis Paine, Research Fellow, TSRC</i> <i>Ruth Leonard, Chair of the Association of Volunteer Managers and Head of Volunteering Development, Macmillan Cancer Support</i> <i>Rose Lindsey, Senior Research Fellow, University of Southampton</i>	<b>Rm5</b>
<b>The how and why of impact evaluation in the third sector</b>	<i>Paul Montgomery, Professor of Social Intervention, TSRC</i> <i>Martin Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer, The Clare Foundation</i>	<b>Rm6</b>
<b>Watch (out for) these spaces: can communities make place based change happen?</b>	<i>Angus McCabe, Senior Research Fellow, TSRC</i> <i>Mandy Wilson, Independent Community Development Practitioner</i>	<b>Rm3</b>
<b>Working with the public sector: what promotes effective relationships across and between sectors?</b>	<i>Rebecca Ince, Research Fellow, Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership</i> <i>Laura Kelly, Research Fellow, TSRC</i>	<b>Rm8</b>

**14:30-14:45 Break**

**ATRIUM**

**14:45-15:30 Reflections and lessons learned: experiencing continuity and change in voluntary action**

**Rm 4/5/6**

A panel of key national and regional stakeholders will reflect on their own experiences of continuity and change and the lessons they take away from the day's discussions:

*Dipali Chandra, Secretary, WM Funders Network*

*Karl Wilding, Director of Public Policy and Volunteering, NCVO*

**15:30-16:15 An agenda for action: implications for research and practice**

Delegates will be invited to participate in facilitated round table discussions, in order to reflect on learning from the day and identify future priorities for action.

**16:15-16:30 Closing remarks**

*John Mohan, Professor of Social Policy and Director, TSRC*

*Brian Carr, Chief Executive, BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action*

**16:30 Drinks reception**

**ATRIUM & 4/5/6**



**Chair: Brian Carr**

**Chief Executive of BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action**

BVSC is a charity that supports voluntary action in Birmingham and surrounding areas by providing an environment where organisations and community groups can pursue their aims and thrive. We achieve this by providing practical support, demonstrating strong leadership and by forging alliances with key strategic partners through our Third Sector Assembly.

Our versatile and modern conference and meeting facilities are run as a social enterprise meaning that profits can be reinvested in our core work supporting Birmingham's voluntary sector.

Our vision is for a fair and equitable Birmingham.

Our mission is to help people to build and benefit from a fair and equitable Birmingham.

We have more than 1,000 members drawn from Birmingham's vibrant voluntary and community sector. Information about local organisations can be searched via our Online Directory. We help them by providing specialist support and advice, opportunities to collaborate and network, and by keeping them up to date with the news that affects them.

Our practical support includes: back office services (including financial management, payroll services and HR consultancy); training courses; communications and marketing support; and Weekly e-bulletins.

We are the lead body for three sector-led service delivery partnership programmes in Birmingham, including Talent Match Birmingham & Solihull, Birmingham Changing Futures Together and Ageing Better in Birmingham.

I am responsible for leading BVSC strategically and operationally on behalf of the charity's Board of Trustees. My role is to ensure that we develop the resources, partnerships, initiatives and services needed to deliver our mission of helping local people to build and benefit from a fair and equitable Birmingham.



## Keynote Speaker: Dan Corry

### Chief Executive of NPC (New Philanthropy Capital)

Dan became Chief Executive of NPC in 2011 following a variety of posts in public policy and economics. NPC is a think tank and consultancy that works to increase the impact of the charity sector. He was Head of the Number 10 Policy Unit and Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister on the Economy from 2007 to 2010; was Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Treasury; and has worked as a special adviser to the Secretary of State in the Education Department as well as at DTI and DCLG. He was a Director in the Economics segment of FTI Consulting, ran the New Local Government Network think tank between 2002 and 2005, which was voted Think Tank of the Year in 2004 and was Senior Economist at the IPPR in the 1990s.

Dan is a Trustee of St Mungo's, the What Works Centre for Wellbeing and 19 Princelet Street, and is a former member of the Research Committee of the ESRC and of the Greater Manchester Economic Advisory Panel. He is a member of the Advisory Boards for Big Society Capital, Impetus-PEF and the Centre for Public Scrutiny, and of the Big Lottery's Data and Evidence Evaluation and Evidence advisory group. He is a member of the Early Action Taskforce, which helps make the case for a shift in priorities towards prevention.

# Contributor Biographies

## Dipali Chandra

Secretary

WM Funders Network



Dipali has over 25 years' experience in social policy work across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Her specialism is in equality and social inclusion issues, ranging across vocational training and employability, labour market disadvantage, immigration and refugee resettlement, health and wellbeing, and more formal equalities work on ethnicity and gender discrimination. Dipali started her career in community development and has worked extensively at senior executive and non-executive level in the public and third sectors in developing strategy, business and operational plans as well as grants programme development, implementation and management, and organisation development and governance.

In an advisory and consultancy role she has undertaken strategic reviews, programme and project implementation, appraisals and evaluations, social policy research and analysis in a range of social and public policy areas. Her clients have included various Local Authorities, national voluntary sector organisations, Government office for the Regions, and Health Trusts. She has worked for various trusts and foundations at European, national and local levels. Currently she is a Trustee of Birmingham Community Matters, which is providing 'peer to peer' support to micro community and volunteer groups; Secretary to the WM Funders Network and Partnership Co-ordinator for the Workers Educational Association, a national charity providing adult education and community learning.

## Dr Phil Child

Research Fellow

Third Sector Research Centre



Phil joined the University of Birmingham in 2017 as a Research Fellow within the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC). He is currently working on the Leverhulme Trust-funded project 'The Spirit of Social Action: change and continuity in the voluntary sector, 1945 to the present day,' which questions how a wide range of voluntary organisations adapted (or didn't adapt) to changes in social policy and funding streams at the local level in Birmingham over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Phil completed his PhD at the University of Exeter in 2016, entitled 'The Heights of Modernity: the Labour Party and the Politics of Urban Transformation, 1945-70'. His research examined the ways in which political ideology intersected with urban policy in the post-war period, and he has since had work published on the Labour Party's approach to rent regulation in mid-twentieth century.

## **Dr Elizabeth Cookingham Bailey**

Research Fellow

Third Sector Research Centre



Liz is a Research Fellow in the Third Sector Research Centre. With a background in the development of educational policy, her research is currently focused on continuity and change in the voluntary sector. Her research interests include social policy history and the mixed provision of welfare, and she is a strong advocate for understanding the historical context of policy issues. Prior to joining the University of Birmingham, Liz was an LSE Fellow in the Department of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. During her tenure at LSE, she taught Foundations of Social Policy; Organisation and Innovation; and Social Security Policy courses, as well as working on a number of research projects, including early years education and childcare in England; evaluation of intervention in Hampshire schools; and a cross-European study of women's labour force participation.

Before embarking on a research career, Liz was a project consultant for the third sector organisation, the Family Online Safety Institute, where her primary work focused on the global state of online safety. A background in history drives Liz's focus on the development of social and educational policy in its historical context.

## **Dr Angela Ellis Paine**

Research Fellow

Third Sector Research Centre



Dr Angela Ellis Paine is a Research Fellow at the Third Sector Research Centre at the University of Birmingham, where she is working on a number of studies exploring different aspects of voluntary action: discourses of voluntary action at two transformational moments in the welfare state (1940s and 2010s); a qualitative, longitudinal study of change in the making within the voluntary sector; and a study of community hospitals, with a focus on issues of community engagement and value. Before joining TSRC, Angela was Director of the Institute for Volunteering Research. She is co-author of the book *Volunteering and Society in the 21st Century*, and co-chair of the Voluntary Sector Studies Network.

## **Martin Gallagher**

Chief Executive Officer  
The Clare Foundation



Martin Gallagher joins the Clare Foundation as Chief Executive Officer, having recently led the COMPASS Association for more than 3 1/2 years as their founding CEO. He has several years experience in the commercial, NFP/Trade and extensive experience in the National Governing Body Sport Sectors. He was highly successful in developing strategic and operational alliances and relations and brings a broad working knowledge and application of engagement across multi agency departments and government agencies to procure support, acknowledgement and funding. He has significant oversea work experience with former roles in the Commercial Sector, International High Performance, Performance Development and Community Development (Rugby Union) all of which have given him significant management experience and a comprehensive knowledge of delivering funding programmes to specific KPIs, operational management, event, stakeholder engagement and influence, building political advocacy particularly within the public sector and government entities.

## **Dr Rebecca Ince**

Research Fellow  
Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership



Becky is a Research Fellow at the Open University. Her research covers health and environmental policy, combining the disciplinary and theoretical perspectives of both Geography and Social Policy. Becky's projects illuminate how networks of people and organisations provide services in different and unique contexts, and how relational dynamics between actors in those networks impact service provision and equality of access. Her current work investigates how the third sector supports people in mental health crisis, and previous work investigated the different ways that community organisations, SMEs and local authorities in urban contexts work together to address environmental sustainability. Becky is committed to co-producing research and has worked closely with service users, co-operatives, national and local voluntary sector organisations and local and national government throughout her research.

## **Dr Laura Kelly**

Research Fellow

Third Sector Research Centre



Laura Kelly's research interests centre on youth crime and criminalisation, youth transitions and social inequalities. She is particularly interested in exploring how welfare and criminal justice priorities intersect in areas of practice such as crime prevention, community safety and targeted youth support. She is also interested in the role of the voluntary sector in delivering public services. Laura is currently employed as a Research Fellow in the Third Sector Research Centre at the University of Birmingham. Her work has been published in academic journals, including the British Journal of Criminology, Critical Social Policy, and the Howard Journal of Crime and Justice. She has also written for, and presented to, various practitioner audiences.

## **Ruth Leonard**

Chair of the Association of Volunteer Managers  
and Head of Volunteering Development

Macmillan Cancer Support



Ruth Leonard is Head of Volunteering Development at Macmillan Cancer Support, where her role is to consider strategically where volunteering can add value to developing solutions and to ensure a supportive infrastructure so volunteers can have a quality experience. Previously at Samaritans, this fired her passion for and belief in volunteer led and delivered services. Ruth enjoys collaborative working and bringing others together and feels that volunteer management is about empowering and enabling people to bring their creativity and ingenuity to make a difference in their community. She is also the Chair of the Association of Volunteer Managers (AVM).

## **Dr Rose Lindsey**

Senior Research Fellow  
University of Southampton



Rose Lindsey is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Economic, Social and Political Sciences Sociology at the University of Southampton. She has led a variety of different interdisciplinary and mixed-method research projects on voluntary action. In 2018 Rose co-authored: *Continuity and Change in Voluntary Action: patterns, trends and understandings* (Policy Press) with John Mohan. The book draws on mixed-method research funded by the ESRC, and includes longitudinal qualitative analysis of Mass Observation Project writing (1981-2012), and analysis of various cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys undertaken between the 1980s and the 2010s. Rose is currently a Co-Investigator on another ESRC funded project 'Discourses of Voluntary Action' where she is analysing Mass Observation writing on voluntary action from the 1940s and 2010s. Rose has also worked and volunteered in the voluntary sector, and prior to working with the University of Southampton was the joint CEO of a domestic abuse charity, leading the organisation on strategy, evaluation of service delivery, and funding.

## **Dr Rob Macmillan**

Principal Research Fellow  
Centre for Regional Economic and  
Social Research



Rob Macmillan is a Principal Research Fellow at CRESR, the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University. He has been researching aspects of the third sector for over 20 years, in collaboration with other academics and researchers, policy makers and funders, and with key third sector organisations, and was a Research Fellow at TSRC from 2009 to 2016. His main research interests are around the long term qualitative dynamics of voluntary action, the relationships between markets and the third sector, and capacity building and third sector infrastructure.

## **Angus McCabe**

Senior Research Fellow  
Third Sector Research Centre



Angus has a background in community development work both in inner city and settings on peripheral estates. His research interests include resident led change, health and crime as well as community based education. Until 2006 he was Knowledge Manager for the National Evaluation of the Children's Fund and evaluator with the Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health.

He is currently working with the Third Sector Research Centre at the University of Birmingham and leading on the 'below the radar' work stream which is researching the experiences of small community based groups and activities. For more information on current work please visit the Third Sector Research Centre website.

He also leads the national multi-media evaluation of Big Local, a resident led change programme in 150 areas in England (see Our Bigger Story website). As a multi-media projects films about Big Local are available to view at <https://vimeopro.com/ourbiggerstory/residents-stories>.

He is a Board Member of the International Community Development Journal, an Honorary Fellow at the Faiths and Civil Society Unit (Goldsmiths, University of London) and has been involved in training and development work with non-governmental organisations in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

## **Professor John Mohan**

Professor of Social Policy and Director  
Third Sector Research Centre



John Mohan is Director of the Third Sector Research Centre, and Professor of Social Policy in the University of Birmingham. John's work on voluntary action over the past 25 years includes studies of: student volunteering and national service in the USA; hospital contributory schemes in 20th-century Britain (Mutualism and health care, Manchester University Press, 2006); regional and local variations in voluntary action and social capital in the UK; voluntary support for community hospitals; and numerous quantitative studies of voluntary action and voluntary organisations. Most recently, with Rose Lindsey, he is the author of the critically-acclaimed Continuity and change in voluntary action, a mixed-methods study of volunteering behaviours and attitudes in Britain since the late 1970s.

## **Professor Paul Montgomery**

Professor of Social Intervention  
Third Sector Research Centre



Paul Montgomery is Professor of Social Intervention at the University of Birmingham whose existing work has focused on the effectiveness of complex social interventions. He arrived at Birmingham University in 2017 to take up his current post after twenty years at Oxford University where he was Professor of Psycho-social Intervention. His work is methodologically based in three main areas: Systematic Reviews, Trials (many of them RCTs) and Methods Advances in Complex Interventions. Topically, his work is wide ranging and includes Sleep Disorders in which he originally did his doctorate, Education Interventions for Children, Empowerment Interventions for Women in LMICs, as well as broader policy advice for policymakers.

Paul is a methodologist who has produced the ESRC-funded CONSORT Guidance for Social and Psychological Interventions as well as GRADE Guidance for Complex Interventions. Previously he has led large trials in both mental health and child welfare including the DOLAB trials and has experience of a range of primary trial approaches in this field including using RCT and mixed methods designs. He is the author of over 40 systematic reviews, a Cochrane editor, and a member of the Cross-Whitehall Trials Panel.

## **Dr James Rees**

Senior Research Fellow and Director  
Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership



James is Director of the Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership at the Open University Business School. Between 2011 and 2016 he led on the service delivery strand at TSRC. His research interests cross third sector studies, public services, and leadership. Recent projects include 'Value of Small' for Lloyds Bank Foundation, tracking probation reforms with Clinks and NCVO, and the role of the voluntary sector in mental health crisis services. He is a co-editor of *Voluntary Sector Review* and his edited book *The Third Sector delivering Public Services* was the first in the Policy Press TSRC series.

## **Karl Wilding**



Director of Public Policy and Volunteering  
NCVO

Karl leads NCVO's volunteering and public policy work. He speaks and writes widely on issues facing the voluntary sector, including public trust, the role of modern charity, and the future of giving and social action. He is an advisor to Charity Bank, a trustee of US voluntary organisation Creating the Future, and a trustee of St Albans Centre for Voluntary Service.

## **Mandy Wilson**

Independent Community Development Practitioner

Mandy works in community based facilitation and research with the aim of linking 'on the ground' practice and experience to programme and policy development. For the last 20 years she has contributed to policy development and implementation, through action research and participatory evaluation, relevant to community policy and practice. Most recently, she has worked with TSRC at the University of Birmingham on the national multimedia evaluation of the Big Local programme, acted as an internal learning partner and evaluator to four different community organiser programmes, supported and evaluated the Clarion Futures community assets programme, and facilitated a learning process for Poverty Truth Commissions.

Mandy is a member of the editorial board of the Community Development Journal.

## Session Outlines

### **Navigating continuity and change: what have we learned?**

Room 4/5/6

#### **Third sector policy and infrastructure: unsettlement, de-coupling and transition**

*Rob Macmillan*

The years following the 2008 global financial crisis can be regarded as a period of unsettlement for the third sector in the UK. Focusing primarily on the English experience, this talk will address the question of how policy around the sector has been reframed over this period, alongside how the sector's infrastructure has changed. The presentation will briefly review several key moments from across the decade, such as the recession action plan, the Big Society, the Lobbying Act and the new Civil Society Strategy, in the light of TSRC's research tracking these developments. The talk will highlight third sector 'strategic unity', the partial 'de-coupling' of the sector and the state, and a defensive third sector as themes for further discussion.

#### **Change and stability in the third sector: what does quantitative evidence tell us?**

*John Mohan*

Perceptions of the environment in which third sector organisations operate are often shaped by two types of evidence: low-cost, low-quality local surveys, proclaiming the apocalypse and predicting the demise of many small and local entities; and large-scale statistical aggregates about the economic contribution of the sector, the proportion and amount of funding it receives from public sources, and so on, which tend to underscore a narrative of concentration and a critique of powerful organisations sequestering resources from small and medium-sized organisations. Without striking an overtly centrist note there is something missing here – not just the obvious importance of disaggregating patterns for a very diverse sector, but also the need for evidence of longer-term trends. I draw on analyses by past and present TSRC staff to give some examples of change and stability over varying timescales.

## **The indivisible continuity of change: ten years in the life of third sector organisations**

*Angela Ellis Paine and Rob Macmillan*

The past decade has undoubtedly been challenging for many organisations within the third sector. Much has changed: austerity has contributed to significant funding cuts, demand for services has increased, the policy environment is less supportive, competition between organisations is seen to be increasing, and organisations are developing new ways of working and looking at new forms of financing and resourcing services. Yet there has also been continuity – quantitative analysis of financial accounts indicates a somewhat surprising degree of long term stability. Following the journeys of organisations over time, however, provides rich insights into what lies behind these broader trends: into how organisations navigate the complex environments in which they operate, the dilemmas they face along the way and the diverse, negotiated, and sometimes contested, ways in which they respond.

## **Third Sector Leadership: who, what, why and how (to improve it)?**

*James Rees*

In this brief presentation I will reflect on what TSRC research said about leadership, and the work that we have been developing since 2016 around leadership at the OU. I will reflect on what we mean by leadership and why it is seemingly becoming a pressing issue for the sector. I will end by suggesting some likely directions for leadership development.

## **Delving deeper: sharing knowledge of current issues**

**\*Please sign up for a workshop at the registration desk\***

### **Advocacy in context: how can advocacy and service delivery fit in the modern voluntary sector?**

*Elizabeth Cookingham Bailey and Phil Child*

*Room 4*

Third sector organisations have a variety of strategies for contributing to the democratic process including raising public awareness, informing the policymaking process, and ensuring a diversity of voices are heard. A number of mechanisms are used to exert this influence including consultations, research and expert input into debates, and direct action or campaigning. The extent of access of these third sector organisations can be influenced by whether or not they are insiders or outsiders.

We will explore trends of change in the third sector over the last 30 years, considering key questions including: How does funding effect the capacity for advocacy in the third sector? How does service delivery impact the ability to engage in advocacy? What can be done going forward? What are successful advocacy strategies? What are some alternatives?

Case Studies: To provide examples of these trends we will briefly highlight two cases from current TSRC research. First, the London Black women's Health Action Project, founded in 1982 by women in the Somali and Arab communities in the Bethnal Green area of London to address the health needs of black women by providing education, support and advocacy. Second, the Handsworth Single Homeless Housing Action Group (HSHAG), founded in 1978 to combat rising homelessness amongst Afro-Caribbean youth in Handsworth, and eventually merging with Midland Heart HA in the 1990s.

### **Great expectations: what does continuity and change in volunteering mean for its ability to deliver?**

*Angela Ellis Paine, Ruth Leonard and Rose Lindsey*

*Room 5*

From keeping our libraries open and propping up the NHS, through to boosting employability, well-being and social cohesions, a lot is expected of volunteering. Much depends on getting more people to volunteer. How realistic are our expectations and aspirations? What does existing evidence and experience tell us about continuity and change in volunteering and what this might mean for the scope for expansion and what it might be expected to achieve? In this workshop we will combine findings from various research studies along with practice based experiences, to explore these challenging questions with participants.

## **The how and why of impact evaluation in the third sector**

*Paul Montgomery and Martin Gallagher*

*Room 6*

This session will have three main parts- Paul Montgomery will present on the challenges and possible approaches to evidence production in charities and other non-profits. Martin Gallagher will consider the rationale and approaches based on his experience of supporting a large number of charities in his role as CEO of The Clare Foundation. These will be followed by an interactive session with participants where we aim to problem solve and consider how this work might proceed.

## **Watch (out for) these spaces: can communities make place based change happen?**

*Angus McCabe and Mandy Wilson*

*Room 3*

There is a renewed policy interest in 'bottom up', hyper-local, community led change initiatives. Such initiatives include Big Local and the Community Organisers programmes and are based on the concept of residents in small scale localities making a positive difference to the places they live. Drawing on practice and research, including 10 years of 'below the radar' research at the Third Sector Research Centre, this session asks – what can 'bottom up' change programmes achieve in austere times – when communities are increasingly pushed into filling gaps brought about by cuts to mainstream services and to deliver on a range of government policy objectives? What does hyper local change look like and what does the future hold for resident led action?

## **Working with the public sector: what promotes effective relationships across and between sectors?**

*Rebecca Ince and Laura Kelly*

*Room 8*

As the Civil Society Futures report has recently noted, civil society does not exist in isolation: it is part of a large and complex ecosystem. Such a claim acknowledges the importance of the state and the market on voluntary sector practices and outcomes, but also hints at increased hybridity or 'blurred boundaries' between sectors. This is reflected in the increased involvement of the third sector in delivering public services - a development that has prompted lively debates within the sector and amongst academic researchers. This workshop explores the political and financial relationships that connect voluntary and public sector organisations. It asks: what does a good partnership with the statutory sector look like? What factors help or hinder this? What do voluntary sector organisations gain and lose when delivering public services? And how can different kinds of organisation shape as well as contribute to local and regional service provision? Drawing on academic literature, including our own research on mental health and targeted youth support, we will encourage delegates to think about a series of research-informed provocations in order to share understanding and highlight unanswered questions.