

Innovating Futures

January – July 2012



What is the need?

In the current economic climate and with a move towards localism, there is a real and pressing need for us to take a fresh look at **what** we are delivering and **how** we are delivering our services. This requires us to work more flexibly and responsively to better meet the specific needs of individual children and families with reducing levels of resource. Our ability to unlock creativity within our leadership and staff groups is critical to success. We need to take a fresh look at how we organise ourselves and the skills we require to be more creative in order to deliver what's needed.

The approach

The aim of Innovating Futures is to develop and leverage the creative potential of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations working with children and families. This programme offers an opportunity to work, with support, on a business critical project such as developing a new service model, a new product or reviewing business processes. Underpinning this work is the opportunity to develop the individual skills and organisational capacity needed to innovate.

After working co-creatively with 16 VCSE organisations in two seven-month programmes, we will organise a national event to share the learning and to explore what further support is needed for VCSE organisations to enhance creativity and innovation within their organisations.

This is not a training programme *per se*. It will enable participants and organisations to work on real time issues to initiate some form of change or development; the sponsors' role in supporting this within the organisation is critical to the project's success.

The programme consists of a total of ten days attendance for up to three people from each organisation. In addition to this, the first session will require attendance from a senior lead/sponsor who will also need to provide ongoing support to the project and staff.

This work is funded through the Family Strategic Partnership, a consortium of four organisations that have come together to share their vision and experience in the Family VCSE Sector. It is led by Barnardo's with Action for Prisoners' Families, Children England and the Family and Parenting Institute. The partnership is funded by DfE to work together to support the sector to build capacity and to shape and influence family policy until March 2013.

There is no cost to participate in the Programme but organisations will need to commit to supporting participants costs of attendance (time and travel). Overnight accommodation (one night in between two consecutive days delivery) and meals will be provided.



Programme 1

- 30th January 2012** **Creating the Container:**
- Introduction to the Programme
 - Clarifying direction
 - Mapping & identifying resource for the project
- 15–16th March 2012** **Questing:**
- On-boarding the teams
 - The four ways of knowing
 - Beginning market research
- 19th April 2012** **Questing 2:**
- Initial sense-making
 - Designing further research activity
- 23rd–24th May 2012** **Deepening Insight:**
- Exploring hidden dynamics
 - Preparing the ground
 - Establishing your creative brief
- 19th–20th June 2012** **Illuminating:**
- Nurturing ideas
 - Working with emergence
 - Giving new form
- 18th–19th July 2012** **Enterprising:**
- Developing the business case
 - Creating presentations
 - Rehearsing & embodying

Dates for the second Programme will be set in 2012.

Programme facilitators

Innovating Futures is facilitated by:

Terry Ingham, Group Director of **nowhere**, a company that specialises in developing tools and processes that help organisations, teams and individuals innovate. Terry works as a consultant and researcher in commercial, public and third sector organisations in the UK and Europe.

Sonya Chowdhury works for Barnardo's in two roles: the National Lead for the Family Strategic Partnership and Head of Business Support. She has a particular interest in developing the capacity of organisations and their cultures to work in a more connected and innovative way.

Together, they bring considerable experience of working with organisations in the private, voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to enhance potential and creativity and to catalyse innovation.

How to participate

If you would like to participate in Innovating Futures, please email Sonya Chowdhury at sonya.chowdhury@barnardos.org.uk providing the following details:

- Name
- Organisation
- Job role/title
- Contact details
- What you would like to get from the programme
- What you would bring to the programme and its participants
- Confirmation of availability for the dates provided

To secure a place on the first programme, please provide the above details by **20th December 2011**.

Who to contact

If you would like any further details or would like to discuss whether this Programme will meet your needs, please contact:

Sonya Chowdhury, National Lead Family Strategic Partnership on 0790 024 8089 or email sonya.chowdhury@barnardos.org.uk

