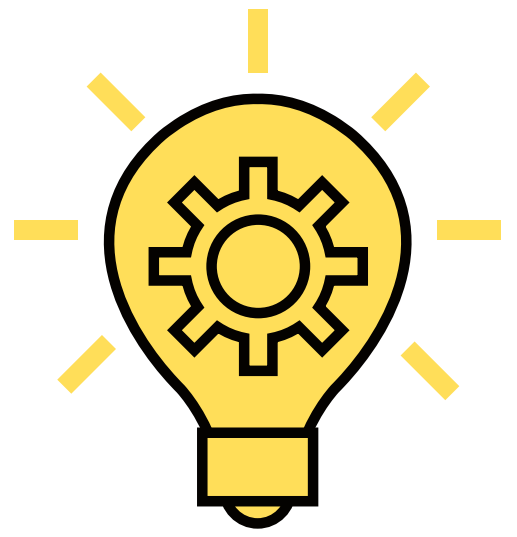


Third Sector Special Interest Group

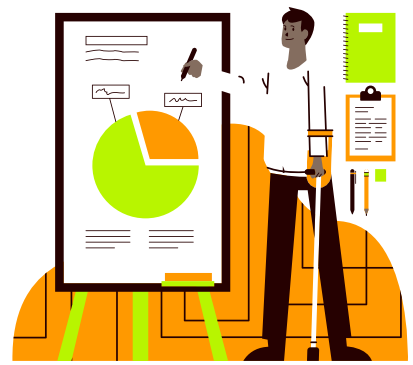


FIRST MEETING - THE UNHEARD VOICES OF THE THIRD SECTOR

This group is to bring together Q members from the third sector to share ideas and experience in how we can better work with health and care bodies to enable us to get better outcomes for the people we support.

Group members can get access to a safe space to ask questions on issues that they are facing in working with the NHS and have discussions about ideas for improvement.

Our agenda



Why we're here

In the first meeting for this Special Interest Group, Pete Donnelly outlined the background of setting up the group as to better understand how the Third Sector can work in the health and social care setting. How can we take our work and maximise its impact?

Our experiences

Coming from a range of backgrounds and working in different organisations, all our experiences around working in the health and care setting offered different approaches that had and hadn't worked.

What do we need

Discussions of barriers that have been faced when working, or attempting to work, with the health sector highlighted areas that needed to be explored further to develop an action plan that can support our work.

Key discussion points

Immediate versus preventative

NHS often focuses on responsive healthcare versus the preventative work we're doing in the Third Sector which is about that long-term impact and those things that can make huge long term impact but it's just not seen as a priority which makes things incredibly difficult - that goes from working with operational people all the way up to Whitehall.

NHS is money focused

NHS is always focused on money rather than social return on investments. It will be really interesting to speak more about that and how we can work to promote the social return and what that looks like in monetary value. We could explore working with leaders and people that focus on social return across different geographical locations.

Lacking ability to work with smaller organisations

NHS doesn't really understand how to work with small organizations and how the Third Sector can bring lived versus learned experience. There is that difference in power and maybe it's not truly co-produced because health professionals are not holding that same kind of role as people from the third sector within conversations. So even when people sat around the table it's if the funding is on one side then it will become weighted and not be an open conversation around moving things forward.

Networking through Q

Opportunities using skills that we have within Q like social network mapping to help Third Sector organisations who maybe want to connect on a specific issue with other Q members. So there's an exercise there and a bit like in Hextime space where you can connect with people who have a common interest to you and looking to achieve similar outcomes.

It can work

when the government wants to, it can fund Third Sector organisations which it did during COVID and does during winter pressures. The government gives open-ended cheques so it doesn't expect that accountability to come back. Support is given for services around facilitated discharge to get people home with packages from hospital. But they do it on their terms and this is not meant to be a disparaging comment but it doesn't require any accountability from the organisations other than they get involved and do what's needed to be done. There are other projects as well around the country in small areas where these sorts of things happen but it's just that there isn't a protocol or a framework for being able to do it.

Using feedback productively

The NHS love getting feedback until they hate it. Because it finds out the real issues and it's a bit like unleashing a can of worms potentially. Some NHS organisations really do want to find out what people think and some organisations generally want to get things that confirm what they already think or what they want people to think. Then it's all a little bit tricky and dangerous so I've found kind of that maverick ways really of walking this line between these various sectors and trying to bring the real people into the room and letting the power of that speak for itself.

Next steps

01

Reflect on what you found useful and what could be improved in the meeting.

02

Share your feedback on the Google form here <https://bit.ly/3YKEmB7>

03

Share with people that you think would benefit from this group.

04

Save the date for the next meeting 12pm on Tuesday 2nd May.



NEXT MEETING 12PM ON TUESDAY 2ND MAY

[REGISTER HERE](#)