

NOTES FROM WORKSHOPS – SAN CONFERENCE 17th October 2018

Money

- Social investment should be assisting people to have more confidence about money, and support them into employment
- Social investment is just a short-term, £ based solution. It does not provide any sustainability for charitable investment
- This workshop was enjoyable, but I am not sure how I can apply this to my social enterprise, because it is 100% funding led, so wouldn't be able to take advantage of social investment
- We need information on the reporting standards of funding providers
- Social investment opportunities are broader than I thought
- (As above) – social investment comes from various sources from philanthropic to purely financial
- Geetha provided a great overview on social impact investment and good resources to look up later
- Healthy reserves could be a plus for social investors – a positive, not a negative
- We need to create space to share income-generating ideas for non-profit organisations
- Fair For You – funds to support people on the poverty premium – an ethical version of Wonga
- Social investment is just one tool in the social enterprise toolbox
- Capitalism has caused social and economic problems. Why do we expect more capitalism to solve these problems?
- Social investment can bring more money into poverty projects
- Social and financial return for investors is just a tool in the toolbox
- Social investment – what is it for? Social enterprise should show how social enterprise will produce a surplus and most importantly, what's the impact as a result?
- Poverty is caused by lack of work and too little paid by employers – their profit comes from paying low amounts
- Types of social investment include; funding growth, innovation and risk sharing, supporting resilience
- People live precarious lives, lack of affordability and powerlessness

Food

- We need to gather evidence to tell the story of success
- Poverty is masked and forgotten because it is not understood
- The lived experience should be the centre of policy and practice
- Great to hear a story directly from someone stepping out of her comfort zone
- Research and evidence can really help us
- Social enterprises should work with partners to gather evidence
- Create an equitable and sustainable society
- The power of story-telling in social impact
- I feel slightly uncomfortable about food banks – the state should be providing – where is the 'welfare state'?
- I need to think more broadly about my business – what value do people get from it?

Social Wellbeing

- Good example of addressing poverty, without it being all about money – social impact
- Rather than absolute and relative poverty, we need to talk about intuitive poverty
- Poverty changes its definition depending on who or where you are
- Funders now want access to stories, videos etc
- Charities should be encouraged to share what's not gone well, without penalties
- Funders will consider core costs
- Poverty is about 'no-one left behind'
- We should be challenging funders on the way they question you
- Social prescribing needs investment
- We need long term investment in people...
- Think about social prescribing as an ecosystem
- Young people are often hidden in the stories and impact reporting
- Person centred AND family centred care is important
- It should be about 'what matters to you' not 'what's the matter with you?'
- We are regressing in terms of housing rights
- We need to recognise how informal 'social prescribing' has been happening for many years
- There are huge gaps between what Councils need to spend and what they are given to spend...

Generally

- There is a lot of talk about 'behaviour change' – this takes a long time
- Can social accounting be a vehicle to over-egg impact – and turn story-telling into fairy tales?
- Is there an answer to validating / challenging government figures on poverty?
- The workshops were informative, lively and engaging
- We need to reduce inequality to make progress with poverty eradication
- Charities know best; they are the experts, not the funders
- Gatekeepers of money and influence are a real problem – can social accounting help?
- There's too much emphasis on 'measuring' and collecting evidence, and not enough on testing and auditing social reports.
- Scope of social reporting should be very wide and is relevant to many different organisations
- I am troubled by measuring impact using monetary values
- Dare to dream!
- Be proportionate
- The Big Lottery; 'there are no rules any more' and seismic changes in the way that funders fund
- #zerotolerancetopoverty