



**Civil
Society
Futures.**

The independent
inquiry

“Emerging from what we’ve heard, the big role for civil society in the coming years is **to generate a radical and creative shift which puts power in the hands of people and communities** - preventing an ‘us and them’ future, connecting us better and humanising the way we do things.”

A BETTER WAY

Our propositions

- Prevention is better than cure.
- Building on strengths is better than focusing on weaknesses.
- Relationships are better than transactions.
- Collaboration is better than competition.
- Mass participation is better than centralised power.
- Local is better than national.
- Principles are better than targets.
- Changing ourselves is better than demanding change from others.

A BETTER WAY

Prevention is better than cure

We all need help throughout our lives, and benefit from 'right first time' support, sometimes at early stages, sometimes at moments of crisis or difficulty. We also need strong communities that build readiness, resilience and resourcefulness, and national systems and policies which help people to thrive, not undermine them.

A BETTER WAY

Building on strengths is better than focusing on weaknesses

Even in the most difficult circumstances people and communities have much to offer. They are well placed to come up with the solutions, and to take action accordingly. Defining people by their 'needs' or deficits, and doing things for or to rather than with them, creates dependency. Creating conditions where people can flourish on their own terms sets them free.

A BETTER WAY

Mass participation is better than centralised power

Power is concentrated in the hands of too few people.

More decisions should be made by larger groups of people with a shared interest or expertise in the subject, starting with those whose voices have not been heard: 'no decisions about us without us'.

Moreover, public agencies, charities and businesses achieve most when they move away from command and control by the few and stimulate the resourcefulness of the many.

A BETTER WAY

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