

**Building Community Capacity and the Social Care Green Paper and Long Term NHS Plan**

At TLAP’s Building Community Capacity Practitioners Network meeting on Thursday 6th discussions participants set out what they thought should be included in the Government’s Green Paper for social care and long term NHS Plan. We agreed that the plans are an opportunity for a step change in the level of ambition for building community capacity and asset-based commissioning and practice.

**Commissioning through co-production**

* Commissioning and decommissioning must be undertaken through co-production with the people most affected, from the beginning and throughout.
* Commissioning should always be undertaken collaboratively between councils, the NHS and the VCSE sector, with wellbeing as the organising principle.
* We need long-term investment in communities, building and scaling innovations and generating evidence of the outcomes of prevention and early intervention. Investment cannot always wait for formal academic evidence: we need take risks and scale what works incrementally.
* Personal budgets and personal health budgets are a key route for people to create their own solutions, but require information, advocacy and brokerage to be equitable and accessible.

**Practitioners and practice**

* Across the care and health workforce, practitioners need the training and support to be confident and competent in holding strengths-based conversations.
* The workforce, and workforce planning and development, should include:
* Re-imagining volunteers, including different models e.g. ‘self-managing volunteers’.
* Harnessing the time and energy of the cohort of ‘young-old’: people aged c60-70
* Flexible roles, support to start social enterprises and ethical self-employment

**Information and language**

* Accessible information on community resources must be widely available and up to date.
* The language we use can be hard for the public to understand, which compounds the poor understanding of social care. Community approaches need to be able to communicate clearly with communities.