

Devolution – VSNW's perspective

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VSNW

Voluntary Sector North West

Accountability | Knowledge | Equality

About VSNW

Sister agency to OEM and part of Regional Voices

Economy - Championing VCSE economic role

- Work w/CLES: *Thriving Places & Civil Economy*
- Support VCSE involvement in LEPs and Combined Authorities
- Support sector involvement in devolution agenda

Health

- DoH VCSE Strategic Partner with OEM
- Supporting sector engagement in New Models of Care Vanguard
- Health Equity North Steering Group & 'Due North' report
- 'Well North' exec group

North West: a region of five subregions

Outline...

1. What's going on?
2. What might devolution mean?
3. Implications for the sector

What's going on?

A number of different things going on...

1. Combined Authorities / future of local authorities
2. Devolution Deals
3. Public Service Reform
4. Health Devolution

And what about the voluntary and community sector?

Combined Authorities – what are they?

- Combined authorities are statutory bodies, introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
- They are set up via a statutory process, which requires the prospective local authorities involved to undertake a ‘governance review’, and to apply to the Secretary of State to establish the combined authority via an Order.
- They are permitted to carry out joint functions across their areas, principally economic development, regeneration and transport.
- Managed by a membership board or cabinet of constituent authority leaders
- Greater Manchester was the first – April 2011
- Liverpool City Region, West Yorkshire, North East and Sheffield City Region established April 2014. **Why?**
- Tees Valley and West Midlands are referred to as Shadow Combined Authorities

Devolution deals

- Distinct from City Deals
- Eight agreed to date over last 3 years; standard offer: FE and skills, transport, Business support, harder-to-help claimants joint commissioning, public land commission, elements of planning
- WM: co-design employment support for harder-to-help claimants, commits to support programme of public service reform
- Sheffield: Adult skills funding
- Liverpool CR: 16+ skills review, International Festival for Business 2018 & 2020 (plus 2016)
- GM: possible joint commissioning of Work Programme from 2017, H&SC integration, Mayor to be PCC, smart ticketing, ESF intermediate body status
- Cornwall: H&SC integration planning, smart ticketing, ESF intermediate body status
- West Yorks: possible joint commissioning of Work Programme from 2017
- North East: smart ticketing, Investment Fund, post 16 skills funding review, increased rural growth responsibility
- Tees Valley: investment fund, comprehensive review and redesign of education, skills and employment system

Public Service Reform - pressures

Councils

- Shift to business rates
- Cuts, 56% more
- Pressures on social care
- Lack of room to innovate and manoeuvre

Significant shortfall in NHS funding

- 5YFV: greater community involvement
- New Models of Care
- Demographic & technological impact – NHS
- Impact of social care (and Better Care)

LEPs: unclear future - £12bn Local Growth Fund

Knock on effect on local VCSE groups – direct and indirect

This is this phase, there will be more...
The current longlist:

Driving economic growth

Business support

Skills and employment

Financial measures

European funding

Free trade zone

Transport

Housing and spatial planning

Health, wellbeing and social care

Energy

Cultural partnership

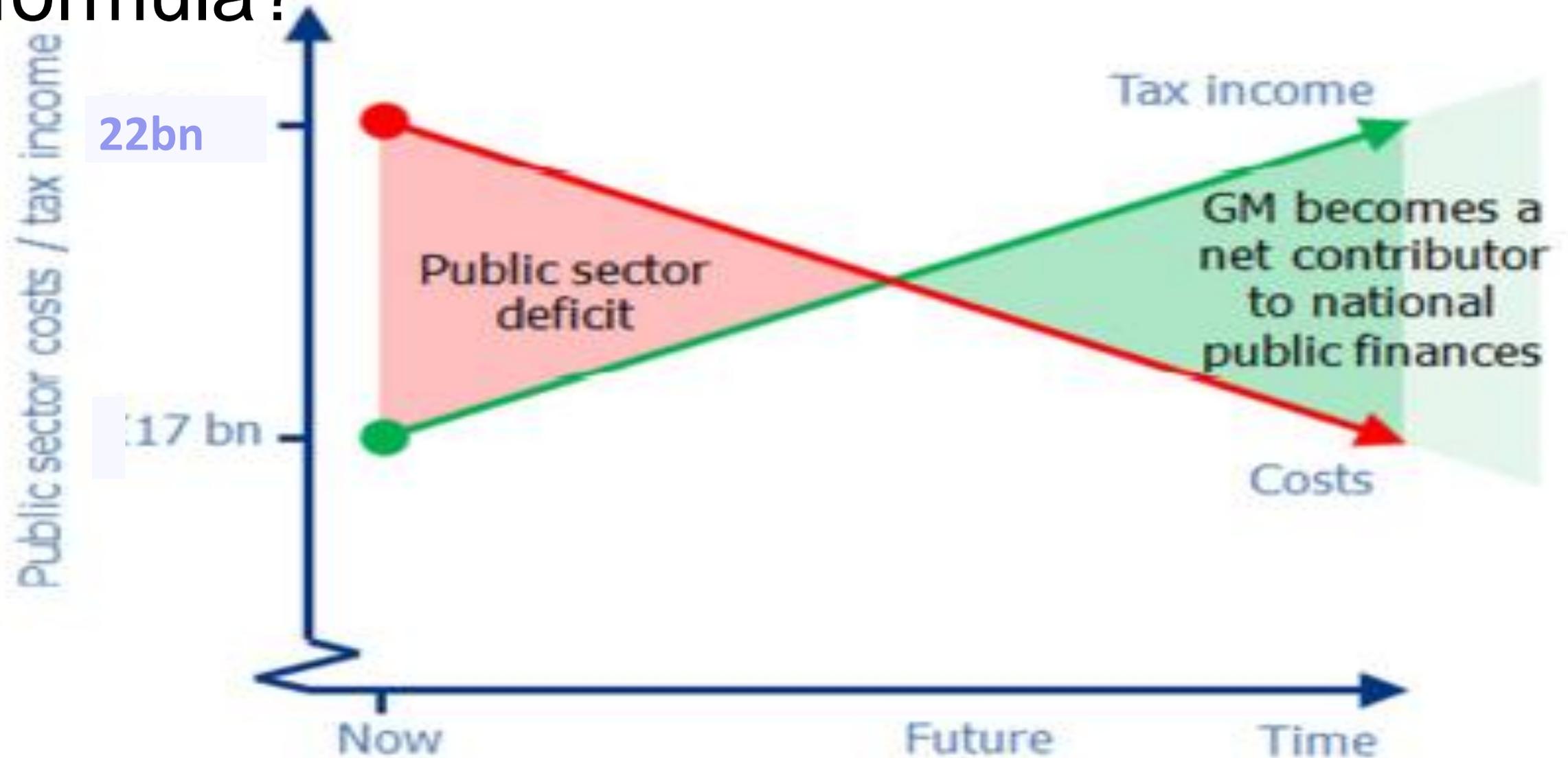
Community safety, licensing and
regulatory services

Education

Children's services

***And now for something
cross-cutting????***

The national-local formula; & local-local formula?



Broadly, what does this look like in practice? e.g. GM-wide working

- Public service reform: transforming justice, early years, ageing better, complex dependency/troubled families
- Health devolution: NHS England principle: VCSE engagement “from development to implementation”
- New Economy: policy, strategy and research for GM’s economic growth and prosperity
- Public Health MoU: place based agreement exploring connection between H&SC reform and economic agenda – prevention, and...
- New Society?
- 10 + 1

What might devolution mean for VCSE groups?

DEVOLUTION, OUR DEVOLUTION:

PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEANING OF DEVOLUTION
FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Contributors:

Ben Barr, Institute of Psychology, Health and Society, University of Liverpool

Ed Cox, IPPR North

John Diamond, Edge Hill University Business School

Dil Dohy, Age Concern Liverpool & Sefton

Amina Lone, Social Action & Research Foundation

Paul Martin CBE, The Lesbian & Gay Foundation

Neil McCreay, Centre for Local Economic Strategies

Mark Morris, ResPublica

Tony Okeke, Liverpool CVS/ United Way

Judy Robinson, Involve Yorkshire & Humber

Andrew Wallis, Local Government Information Unit

Graham Whalley, Young Lancashire

Will Williams, Cumbria Third Sector Network



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Our devolution formula

“the people of the North deserve better than they are currently getting and the discussion as to how this can be achieved needs to happen now to minimise the suffering we see every day”

Dil Daly, Age Concern Liverpool & Sefton

Devolution is “a game-changer”

- Democratic reform: “new powers must bring new accountabilities” and ambitions
- Changes economic, public service delivery, and welfare agenda
- Opportunity for the sector to move out of the margins
- Need new answers: “the city region provides an organisational framework to introduce Austerity 2.0)”
John Diamond, Edge Hill University Business School

Civil Economy: Creating growth that stays

1. Collective place leadership
2. Equal access and benefit economy
3. Fostering local private-voluntary sector links
4. Supporting pathways to work
5. Promoting enterprise
6. Contributing to public service reform solutions

Supporting the voluntary and community sector to tackle health inequality (VSNW response to [Due North](#))

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1. Develop ways to make better use of VCS knowledge, 'translated' into local action.
2. Through trusted local groups, link communities to professional expertise: co-design, co-production, co-commission, and share new learning (both directions: experts in and talking with the community)
3. With VCS groups, local partners should work out how to build communities:
 - build connections between people, resources and centres of relevant community action (networks) and
 - build community capacity (knowledge, opportunities, motivation) especially with regard to early years' public service delivery outcomes
4. Develop employment programmes that support holistic VCS delivery. A 'wellbeing premium' could be included as part of the funding.
5. Encourage sector to champion Living Wage, including making sure that volunteering ≠ job substitution.
6. Develop an appropriate VCS workforce strategy e.g. childcare qualifications, working with families (could be run alongside a public sector workforce strategy)
7. Make tackling health inequality a core element of LEP's social inclusion work

Recommendations 1, 2 & 3

Recommendation 1: Develop a partnership to better engage with and influence the Combined Authority.

Recommendation 2: Engage with the Employment and Skills Board

- Seek VCS representation on the E&S Board
- Develop evidence-base of sector's ability to tackle worklessness

Recommendation 3: Discuss collective engagement offer with members of the CA and lead officers.

Recommendations 4 & 5

Recommendation 4: Build evidence base to demonstrate economic and social impact of sector across Liverpool City Region

- Influence CA's single evidence base
- Help develop the 'common language' for evidencing and demonstrating impact

Recommendation 5: Develop strategic relationships with other local agencies operating at a City-Region level

- Highlight CA proposal for a "Partners' Council"
- Talk to health and social care leads about their understanding of implications of CA for them

Recommendation 6

Recommendation 6: Develop a fuller plan of collective engagement with CA structures and policy agenda, with a clear understanding about individual organisation's responsibilities.

- Build on existing relationships
- Develop a transparent programme of activity that reflects positively on joined up, intelligent, mature VCS partnership activity across the City Region
- Develop a City Region Compact that incorporates the CA's principles

Questions for the sector

1. How do we mobilise (on the right geography)?
2. What devolution (democratic, economic, and welfare state models) will work for those people we work for?
3. How can we support a fundamental change in community involvement? And evidence it!
4. How do we need to change? What's our role in the 'new social'?
5. What's our offer?

Which approach works in communities?

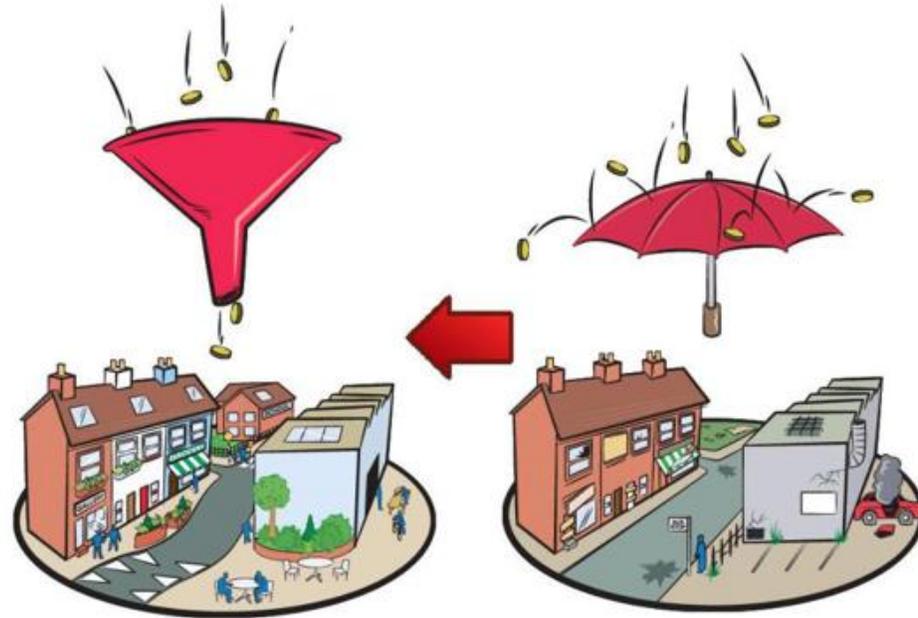


Illustration by Rory Seaford of The Creative Element,
www.pluggingtheleaks.org/resources/plm_ptl_images.htm

How do we ensure devolution takes the funnel approach to investing in communities - not the umbrella!

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