



# The State of Neighbourhood and Locality Working

Tuesday 14 June 11.00 to 16:00 (coffee from 10.30am)

The Bond Company - 180 -182 Fazeley Street, Birmingham, B5 5SE

Do you work in a neighbourhood or locality team? Do you want to take stock with others in similar roles and find out how they are demonstrating value, sharing innovation, and dealing with the pressures and challenges of spending cuts?

We know those working in neighbourhoods and locality teams are often involved in some of the most important areas of public service innovation. But you are also probably under greater pressure than ever to demonstrate impact and defend your approach.

This is a day for reconnecting, making useful contacts, sharing examples of practice, and learning new techniques for creating and measuring impact.

## 10.30 Arrivals and coffee

11.00	Welcome and the thinking behind today's event
11.15	Choice of three workshops

### Choice 1 **Bolton's Democratic Ninjas: making do and mending with what's left after austerity**

- We often talk about 'Ninjas' as slang for clever or expert – but who were the Ninja, and why might their philosophy of stealth and resourceful guerrilla tactics be a model for locality and neighbourhood working? If you are interested in this workshop please take a moment beforehand to do a little homework on the history and myth of the Ninja - it will make for a much more interesting workshop!

### Choice 2 **Impact Assessment? There's an App for that!**

- An Impact Assessment mobile App for charities, public services, and community groups has been designed by Birmingham-based Podnosh based on their social media surgeries. It helps workers routinely capture the difference they're making in the words of the people they help. Come and have a look at how it does that, talk to Nick Booth from Podnosh about it, find out what it costs, have a think about how it might help you demonstrate your value on the ground.

### Choice 3 **Everyday empowerment is life-changing**

- In Oxford and Great Yarmouth neighbourhood teams are making a little go a long way. Helping a communities get local agencies and businesses to agree on simple but vital changes such as accessibility ramps for local shops, or providing small grants to help communities take control of everyday problems – these examples

from Great Yarmouth and Oxford show how modest resources used with a philosophy of empowerment can make a serious difference to people's lives.

**12.15** LUNCH

**1.15** Plenary session: **Mapping human relationships**

A real-time exercise to show how human relationships can be mapped using pens and flipcharts or free online software and how this can help us understand the potential and the challenges of building community networks and social capital.

**1.45** Choice of three workshops

**Choice 1 Project Redemption – a community based response to re-offending**

- Project Redemption has been pioneered within Northamptonshire Police by a unit of former community officers who were tired of making less and less of a difference with conventional crime fighting tools. The Project, inspired by work in Glasgow, has officers mentoring and supporting those who cause the police the greatest demand, or the community the most harm. Officers use peer mentors and unlock individual's own skills to help them into sustainable employment.

**Choice 2 Not just explaining 'what' happens, but 'HOW' and 'WHY'**

- "Theories of change" are about cause and effect - like school science lessons where knowledge and research is used to plan for the result we want, and test the theory behind the chemical reactions. As well as understanding how chemicals can be combined to make salt, we can use theories of change to make sure we understand HOW our actions affect communities, to improve our understanding of WHY change happens - so we can create better outcomes next time.

**Choice 3 Community Councils in Southwark**

- Southwark's Community councils take decision-making out of the town hall and into the community and give people of all ages and backgrounds a say about what goes on in their area. Community Councils hold public meetings around 5 times a year. Local people meet with each other and with ward Councillors, to discuss key issues of concern, and help shape decisions on local issues. Find out about the role of community councils and the engagement methods and tools officers use to support community groups and elected Members to work together.

**2.45** Choice of three workshops

**Choice 1 Digital story-telling about neighbourhood working**

- Digital storytelling is a specific style of video which homes in on personal stories that captures the essence of what we want to explain using 2 minutes of spoken word set to a slideshow of images. Sometimes a 2 minute video has more impact than a 20 page report and can get a point across to a wider audience. Digital

storytelling focuses on spoken words so instead of filming someone speaking, it uses a slideshow of images to accompany an audio-recording. This makes it easier to create a polished end-product, and is also a chance to tell some of the story through images. Learn about this cheap accessible approach and help make a digital story in the workshop.

**Choice 2 SROI – Barnsley’s ‘secret weapon’**

- Social Return on Investment (SROI) sounds like an obscure branch of accountancy, but for Barnsley it is their secret weapon for explaining to senior officers and Members why it makes sense to devolve larger budget to Area Councils. SROI is ‘a framework for measuring and accounting for the value’ of activities in ways which can be compared with other financial costs and benefits. By using this approach Barnsley to discover the ‘social return’ for a One Stop Shops is £29 for every £1 spent on running it – much higher than most other public service activities.

**Choice 3 Locality working in Birmingham – citywide, but not one model fits all**

- Birmingham City Council has pioneered neighbourhood devolution for 15 years and now under a new political Leader, the City is working even more urgently to push forward a bottom up process for neighbourhood devolution. Not only does the City want its local councillors to work even closer with their communities, but they also want to avoid a one model fits all and instead see the future in a diversity of forms of neighbourhood governance.

**3.45**

Plenary session: **Mapping human relationships**

We will reveal the results of the after-lunch exercise!

**4.00**

Event ends

To book a place visit our Eventbrite page

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-state-of-neighbourhood-and-locality-working-tickets-24997277530>