



# The new state we're in...

Caroline Mager, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010

# Aims for the session

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- To discuss the purpose, form and content of the proposed paper
- To agree a process which engages the Council and the sector, taking advice on most appropriate approaches
- To discuss the emerging analysis of the new context

# The world we're in: autumn 2010 - aims

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- To make sense of changing policies and priorities
- To empower the sector to both respond to and shape the future
- To set out how LSIS services will support the sector in stepping up to new challenges and opportunities

# Council role

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- To provide contributions, comments and critiques
- To promote discussion and engage your constituencies
- To lend your voice to the publication

# The Big Society

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A society...

- ... with much higher levels of personal, professional, civic and corporate responsibility
- ... where people come together to solve problems and improve life for themselves and their communities
- ... where the leading force for progress is social responsibility not state control

# The Big Society

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## The three pillars:

- Freedom
- Fairness
- Responsibility

# Freedom – the story

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... reducing regulation and bureaucracy, increasing autonomy and operational freedom (including demise of PSAs), to:

- increase responsiveness and accountability to customers and citizens
- encourage innovation and enterprise
- reduce costs and improve efficiency...

# Freedom – the risks

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The risks for individual providers:

- Inappropriate exploitation of power/autonomy?
- Failure to exploit new opportunities?

Issues:

- Capacity to move from a culture of compliance to a culture of enterprise and innovation?

Role for LSIS?

# Freedom – the opportunities

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- Taking control of performance management?
- Influencing oversight and regulatory arrangements?
- Increasing legitimacy with and accountability to communities?

Role for LSIS?

# Fairness – the story

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*... those who can, should, those who can't, we will always help*

- Apprenticeships and NEETs key priorities
- Promise of pupil premium; EMAs under review
- FE as a means of widening access to HE
- Welfare reform – *opportunity to tackle poverty and long-term worklessness*

# Fairness – the opportunities

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How can the sector

- promote this leg of the strategy?
- work more effectively with the welfare strategy?
- flaunt its contribution to social mobility?
- develop its role in HE preparation and delivery?

Role for LSIS?

# Responsibility – the story

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*... a leading force for progress is social responsibility not state control*

- the corollary of more autonomy
- individuals and communities finding their own solutions;
- re-orientating accountability away from government towards civil society
- Giving citizens the data they need to hold public services to account

# Responsibility – the risk and the opportunities

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- ... more responsibility for decisions rests with front-line public services
- ... central government '*devolves the axe*'
- ... public holds frontline services responsible for cuts

How to carry out this responsibility while maintaining credibility and legitimacy with citizens?

# Funding - elements

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... efficiency, efficiency, efficiency

- A more competitive market – public, private, third and voluntary sector
- A fundamental review of what is funded at public expense
- Customers who can, pay

# Funding – challenges and opportunities

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- Shared everything - services, chief execs, accounting officers, strategies, etc
- New organisational landscape – mergers, federations, co-ops, mutuals and ‘free’
- A mixed economy of professional staff, self-help and volunteers
- Greater flexibility in curriculum design

# Administrative and operational changes – the story so far

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- Single funding body?
- Future of 14-19 commissioning?
- 14-19 partnerships now voluntary
- An end to regions as we know them
- Small local as well as national government
- Reduction in central support functions – not just quangos

# Administrative and operational changes – the challenges

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- Intense competition 14-19 – maintaining a coherent and comprehensive offer for young people?
- Exploiting greater curriculum freedoms for adults
- Increasing fee income in ‘austere times’
- Will government be neutral about the provider infrastructure?

# Discussion

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- What have we missed?
- What have we misunderstood or under-estimated?
- What are the most critical issues for providers?
  - How do these vary for particular sectors?
- What are the priorities for LSIS?