

Presentation to SFHA
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2019

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Building communities for the Scotland we want

RETHINKING POVERTY

THE WEBB LEGACY

Toxic politics

- Poverty debate “Angry and fruitless” (Julia Unwin, 2013)
- Lost ground since then
- “Shrill absolutism” (Rory Stewart, 2019)

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Reframing

- Framing (George Lakoff)
- Positive
- On Dialogue (David Bohm)
- Pay attention to 'tacit assumptions'
- It is not the things you don't know, that mess you up, it is the things you know for certain
- Listen and learn
- The power of "I don't know"

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A key principle

- Buckminster Fuller:
- ‘You never change something by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.’

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Five principles of a good society

- A decent standard of living
- A sense of security
- Freedom to be creative
- Respectful relationships
- Sustainable future for the next generation.

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Community is central

- Money matters
- Only to an extent
- We need to be secure and free
- Relationships are essential building block

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How to create a good society

- The question is not “how?”
- but “who?”

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How and who

- How is
- Mechanical
- Product based
- Relies on other
- Exclusive
- Uses usual suspects

- Who is
- Organic
- Process based
- Relies on self
- Inclusive
- Allows counterintuitive allies

People-led

- Citizen organizing (Citizens UK)
- People led social services (Hilary Cottam)
- Citizens assemblies (Compass)
- #ShiftThePower
- Three criteria: assets, capacity, trust

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Unique position

- 300 people from 142 organisations
- Amazing power for change in this room
- Bedrock of society
- In peoples lives
- The coming challenges
- Don't do anything for anybody that they are capable of doing for themselves
- Power with, not over

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Drawing together alliances

- The ecosystem
- The Scotland we want
- Depends on the transformation of power, rather than the transaction of resources
- Otherwise we will never rethink poverty
- <https://www.rethinkingpoverty.org.uk/rethinking-poverty/>

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