Building communities for the Scotland we want
Toxic politics

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

- Money matters
- Only to an extent
- We need to be secure and free
- Relationships are essential building block
How to create a good society

• The question is not “how?”
• but “who?”
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
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
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/](https://www.rethinkingpoverty.org.uk/rethinking-poverty/)