



Open Research Online

Citation

Larkin, Mary (2011). Partnerships between universities and the Third Sector. In: International Week 2011: Promoting Welfare Service Innovations - Entrepreneurship, Voluntary Work and Third Sector, 7-11 Mar 2011, Laurea Tikkurila, Finland.

URL

<https://oro.open.ac.uk/41108/>

License

None Specified

Policy

This document has been downloaded from Open Research Online, The Open University's repository of research publications. This version is being made available in accordance with Open Research Online policies available from [Open Research Online \(ORO\) Policies](#)

Versions

If this document is identified as the Author Accepted Manuscript it is the version after peer review but before type setting, copy editing or publisher branding

Partnerships between Universities and the Third Sector

International week at Laurea Tikkurila
7th March 2011

Dr Mary Larkin
De Montfort University
Leicester

A hand-drawn yin-yang symbol is centered on the page. The symbol consists of two interlocking teardrop shapes, one dark teal and one white, both with a dark teal outline. The word "PARTNERSHIPS" is written across the center of the symbol in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The background features a vertical gradient from red at the top to purple at the bottom.

PARTNERSHIPS



Third Sector

Universities

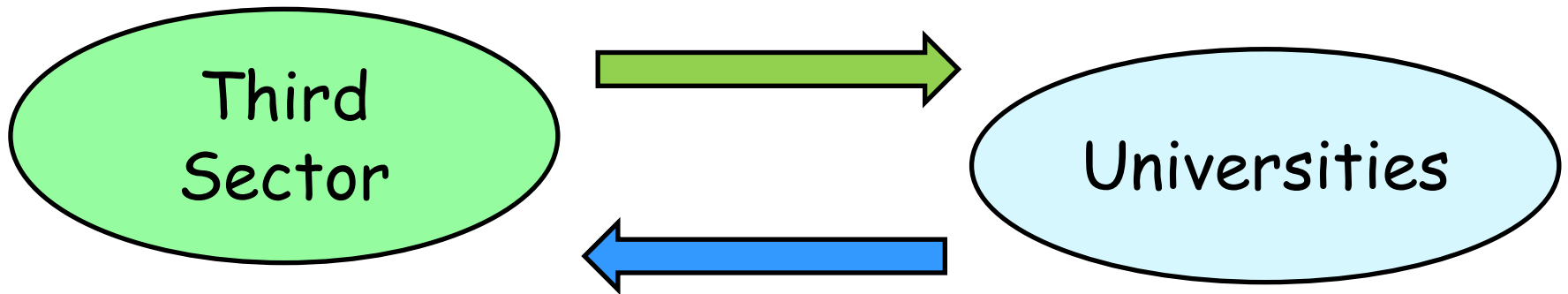
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. What is the third sector?
2. Benefits of working together for third sector organisations and universities
3. Benefits for the third sector
4. Benefits for universities
5. Research partnerships between the third sector and universities
6. Where next for partnerships between universities and the third sector?

WHAT IS THE THIRD SECTOR?

- composed of charities, the voluntary sector, not for profit organisations and social enterprise organisations
 - increasingly central to the health and well-being of UK society
 - gained recognition in most western countries
 - currently enjoys widespread public and political support
- “is absolutely central to the life of the nation, with a character and contribution all of its own” David Cameron. Prime Minister
- Office for Civil Society

BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER FOR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES



BENEFITS FOR THE THIRD SECTOR

- ★ ensures they are up to date with developments in professional training
- ★ opportunities to influence professional practice
- ★ develop good relationships with future professionals
- ★ enhances credibility
- ★ raises external profile
- ★ participation in joint promotional events/activities
- ★ access to academic evidence bases and expertise

BENEFITS FOR UNIVERSITIES

- ★ source of expertise
- ★ source of information about policy developments
- ★ source of contacts
- ★ help with the development and design of courses
- ★ contribute to teaching on courses
- ★ employment information
- ★ source of student placements
as a research partner

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE THIRD SECTOR AND UNIVERSITIES

- ★ longest standing are the partnerships between medical research charities and universities
- ★ take different forms
- ★ formal recognition with establishment of the Third Sector Research Centre and secondments between the two sectors

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE THIRD SECTOR AND UNIVERSITIES - BENEFITS

- ★ policy developments
- ★ access to research participants
- ★ research expertise
- ★ sources of funding
- ★ dissemination of findings
- ★ access to resources within each partner organisation

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE THIRD SECTOR AND UNIVERSITIES - OUTCOMES

- ★ unique sharing of individual and organisational expertise, skills, knowledge, information, resources and networks
- ★ production of rigorous research that makes the best use of available research funds and has the best possible impact
- ★ partner organisations can meet other demands on them
- ★ accords with the ongoing drive to involve the third sector and making the best use of limited resources in an era of public spending cuts

WHERE NEXT FOR PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND THE THIRD SECTOR?

- partnerships do not always work and do not solve all problems!
- cuts in public spending could undermine these partnerships
- the challenge now is to ensure that public spending cuts are not a barrier to, but an incentive to maintain and develop partnerships between universities and the third sector

CONTACT ME !

mlarkin@dmu.ac.uk