

Listen, Think, Do, Talk, Learn, Share



The Stamford Forum

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND WHAT WE STAND FOR

We are an association of people who work with and for individual, community, organisational and social development. We are not a think tank – but a Listen, Think, Do, Talk, Learn and Share Tank. We are impatient with just talking about what needs to change and take an action learning approach; this means DOING - engaging in action - as the basis for learning and new thinking.

We are critical of the excesses of the performance management culture in which “*the more we manage, the worse we make things*”. We work with the messy problems and issues that characterise the hard challenges facing organisations and communities, such as localism, difference and diversity, environmental sustainability, regeneration and renewal and, integration.

We aim to contribute to the resolution of problems and dilemmas by applying the ideas of systems thinking to bring about the changes desired by those who live and work in these settings.

In helping to create the conditions that enable other people to get things done and to develop their capabilities, confidence and skills, we work with effective and proven change processes including coaching, action learning, whole systems development and “learning architectures”. This challenging work demands a partnership relationship in the change process that goes beyond the simple client/consultant divide. To this end, we seek to develop new ways of partnering and to welcome all concerned to join in membership of the Forum. One important shared value is that we take the time to reflect upon and learn from our own practice.

We work in three modes. A wide number of issues are regularly explored through the Stamford Forum ‘Debate’ process. When we wish to take things further, we will spend up to a year undertaking a Stamford Forum ‘Enquiry’ which will embrace a variety of stakeholders working through a number of different settings and processes. On completion, when we want to take the outcomes of our work through a process of implementation and refinement, we will headline our work as The Stamford Forum on (e.g. Localism, Disability, Climate Change etc)

As a forum with an ever-widening membership, we continue to argue and refine our philosophy and methods by debating the questions and issues brought by members. If these ideas appeal to you, we invite you to get in touch and join us.