

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR INDEPENDENT ACTION and THE CRITICALLY
CHATTING COLLECTIVE

Present

WE WON'T ROLL OVER: CREATING ALLIANCES OF RESISTANCE

A Workshop of Discussion and Action

Venue in Central London

[details to be confirmed]

On Friday, November 7, 2009 from 10.30-4.30.

For the last 11 years, the New Labour Government has continued, with enthusiasm, previous policies of de-regulation, privatisation, and out-sourcing of public services, informed by private sector business models and controlled by prescriptive performance management regimes. This fragmented and market-driven ideology continues to have widespread effects for those working in statutory sector public services and for those working in the voluntary and community sectors, now identified as a 'delivery vehicle' for Government plans and intentions. Public sector workers and managers find their skills and experience undervalued or made redundant, whilst voluntary agencies are being transformed into arms-length State contractors, diminishing the crucial independence of the sector.

And yet, as we are in the midst of planning this event, the economic meltdown of the world economy highlights the flawed assumptions of the New Labour, free market project. Such is the mess that its disciples cry out for salvation from the State and the opportunity to raid our collective community assets.

Against this background of anxiety and contradiction this is an opportune moment to reflect on the impact of neo-liberal ideas on the Welfare State and the Voluntary Sector. Critically too the present debacle opens up the possibility of challenging the taken-for-granted dominance of market and employer-led agendas. This is a moment to seize back the initiative.

This event will examine the current crisis in both statutory and non-statutory sectors, using youth work as a case study, and will ask what can we do to resist the direction of travel and substitute for it our own progressive perspectives.

Programme

10.30-11.00 Arrivals and Coffee/Tea

11.00-11.15 Introductions

11.15-11.40 'Neo-Liberal Welfare: The Changing Face of Youth Work'- some reflections and pointers from Bernard Davies, author of 'The History of the Youth Service in England' followed by:

11.40-1.00 Animated discussion

1.00-1.45 Lunch

1.45-2.15 'How Typical is Youth Work? What's Happening Elsewhere?' - a response from Andy Benson of the National Coalition followed by:

2.15-3.30 Further animated debate

3.30-4.30 'Where do we go from here?' - taking action or putting our money where our mouths are!

For more information, and to book a place please contact Tony Taylor at tonymtaylor@gmail.com