

## Mutual Ventures support offer

Local government is under incredible financial pressure with central government funding reducing by almost half since 2010. Over the same period, the number of children in care has increased by 21% and requests for adult social care continues to rise. Council leaders often have no choice but to cut services with preventative services often suffering the most. As services work to recover in this tough environment, many are looking to improve outcomes by re-designing services and implementing new delivery models. This should focus on co-design and co-production with front-line staff and service users, promoting broad participation in public services rather than a “top down” approach.

Mutual Ventures are specialists in supporting this kind of service design and implementation. We have wide-ranging experience of supporting innovation and delivering cutting-edge transformation programmes across the full range of council services. Over the last nine years we have supported over 120 clients including within children’s services, adult social care, public health and culture and leisure services. We have been the lead provider to the government’s Mutual Support Programme. Our work falls into two main categories: service innovation and delivery model transformation.

**Service Innovation** - We have a tried and tested approach in which we co-create service innovation with frontline staff and service users. This ensures the service design properly reflects the lived experience of those delivering and accessing it and also ensures any solution takes into account real conditions and can be implemented successfully. This is coupled with expertise in scaling and spreading innovation ensuring the sector as a whole can benefit. We have included a case study below:

Mutual Ventures is the prime provider for the [Department for Education’s Children’s Social Care Innovation Programme](#). The Innovation Programme is a multi-year investment of circa £200m since 2014 to inspire and test innovative policy solutions to the challenges facing the Children’s Social Care sector. Mutual Ventures leads a team of highly skilled coaches who provide support and challenge to Local Authority and third sector projects. We deliver this contract in partnership, with legal support provided by Bates Wells.

Learning is at the heart of the programme. We support projects to embed learning into their everyday work and run nationwide learning events to share best practice and success stories.

**Delivery Model Transformation** - The overarching environment in which innovation happens is critical to its ultimate success and sustainability. Often when pursuing whole-scale change, a new structural, operational and cultural delivery model will provide the best context for this. These models can also better support stakeholders (e.g. staff and service users) to participate in the governance and running of the service. An example of our work supporting the development of a new model is included below:

**Case study:** Mutual Ventures supported Rochdale Council to establish a Community Interest Company (PossAbilities) to deliver Adult Social Care services for people with physical and learning disabilities. As part of this we developed a staff-ownership and governance structure where all employees and service users can play a genuine role in the running of the company while also maintaining strategic and operational agility.

PossAbilities has grown sustainably and is now successfully delivering a wide variety of services for a range of councils. This growth has come while also maintaining incredibly high service quality standards. This was recognised by their CQC rating of “Outstanding”.

Mutual Ventures has an in depth understanding of the challenges facing public services, and delivering innovative transformation which improves outcomes. To discuss working with us in more detail please contact Mutual Ventures’ Managing Director, Andrew Laird ([andrew@mutualventures.co.uk](mailto:andrew@mutualventures.co.uk)).