

**General Help providers –  
the end of the line?**

**THE ISSUES**

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# Effect of CLS Policy

## CLACs/CLANs/ISWLS

- Will non-contracted agencies be excluded?
- Will LAs still provide separate funding to equalities groups to provide advice?
- Are GH agencies going to be relegated to role of non-funded outreach venues?
- Can GH orgs influence pattern of provision and ways of working or will they be imposed?

## Effect of CLS Policy (2)

- What is effect of neglect of GH Quality Mark?
- In the absence of CLSPs, what role can local advice networks/forums play?
- Do GH agencies feel let down/alienated after CLS initially promised so much?
- Will GH agencies still feel they are (or benefit from being) part of the advice sector?
- (Where) do client needs, access, outcomes and user-led services *really* fit into CLS Strategy?

# Funding Developments

- Is commissioning culture excluding smaller VCS agencies?
- Are LA advice reviews pre-empting CLACs?
- What effect will BLF's focus on specialist and mainstream advice orgs have on sector?
- What will DCLG's cohesion guidance for funders – with emphasis on mainstreaming – mean for equalities groups, e.g. BMER & women's advice agencies?

# Sector-specific issues

**Various govt. initiatives promise to improve services for particular client groups and contain an advice/IAG element, but**

- Will they fund *legal* advice?

**If they will,**

- How will services fit with CLS, QM etc.?
- Will principles of independence of advice be understood/respected?

# Effects of wider Govt. policy

- Can advice get on the agenda of LAAs?
- Will we ever get a coherent cross-departmental strategy for advice?
- What impact might a change of Government have?

## In the final analysis.....

- How major will rationalisation / reorganisation of the sector be?
- How will this affect clients?
- **What will the advice sector look like in 5 years time?**
- **What do advice agencies need to do now???**