

Open letter to MSP's

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Voices of Experience (VOX) is a national Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee that gives a voice to the lived experience of people with mental health problems in Scotland.

VOX Board of Directors felt it would be helpful for you to know our members current concerns. These concerns are ascertained through correspondence and six monthly members meetings that regularly take place in different areas of Scotland.

The list of Eight Concerns is sometimes illustrated by topic cartoons that were used at our AGM in Stirling in 2010. These cartoons were considered by our members as to be the most important.

VOX takes its members concerns seriously and works with others to take them forward, we would therefore welcome your response to the list of Eight Concerns.

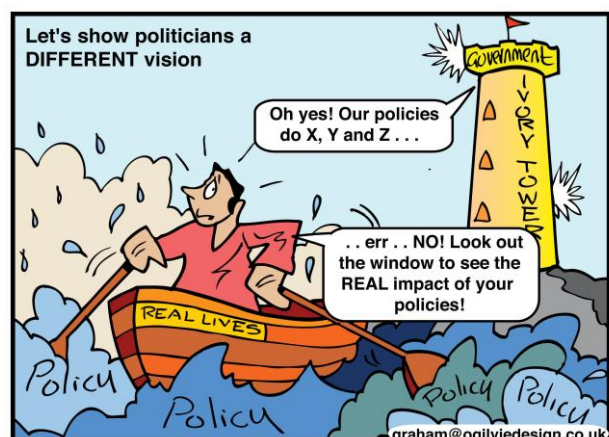
We would like to know how you would see them acted upon during the next four years. In particular we would like to know your own views on the Westminster Parliament's intentions to reform many of the Benefits that VOX members have to use. Although it is a reserved issue, we would like the Scottish government to give the reform of the benefits system due consideration.

Yours Faithfully

Joyce Mouriki

Chairperson

On behalf of the VOX Board of Directors

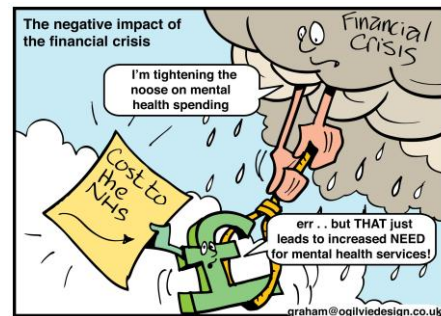


The Eight Concerns

1) Cuts – You can only go so far.



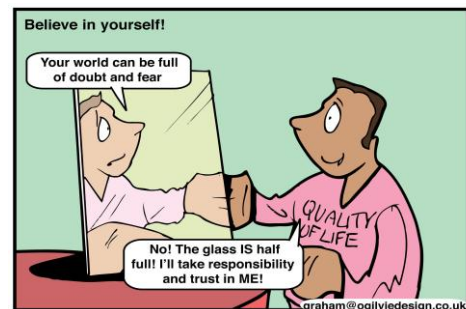
2) Cuts – in our case they would only lead to increased need for services.



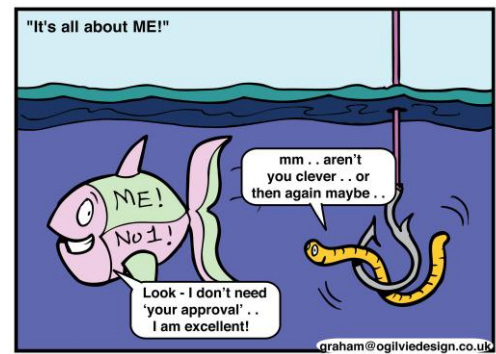
3) Being helped to chat about your problem should be a priority.



4) What you believe about yourself is important.



5) The person not the illness is what counts.



6) The lived experience of the person with the problems comes first.



7) How can I be expected to get back to work if the way the Benefit System works only hinders me?"



8) The Benefits System – changing what you are entitled to can be very stressful for a person who is not well.

