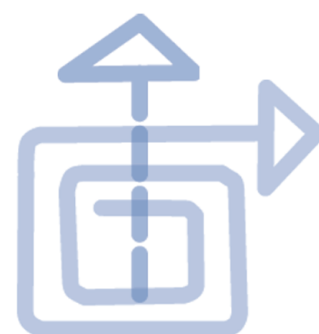


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overview of guide

introduction

Ever since we first sketched out the contents of *Tools for Tomorrow*¹, our practical guide to strategic planning in the voluntary and community sector, we've wanted to adapt *scenario planning tools* (widely used in the corporate world) to meet the needs of our sector.

NCVO's annual strategic analysis publication² highlights many of the things going on in our external environment and gives a perspective on likely future drivers for change that we need to consider. We wanted to build this guide to link with that publication, to help managers and facilitators in our sector use the information to add real value to their planning activities. We're really passionate about scenarios – we believe they will make your strategy not just more exciting and stimulating, but also enable you to improve your long-term performance! Scenario planning helps you think outside the box...

Megan Griffith

Third Sector Foresight
NCVO

Caroline Copeman

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who is this guide for?

It's designed to be used by anyone (probably in a leadership role) interested in getting their organisation involved in strategic thinking and implementation. It really shouldn't matter about the size of organisation you are in, the stage you are at in your lifecycle, or your specific sub-sector – the material will be relevant and will help you develop robust and effective strategies. There are no pre-requisites around prior skill and knowledge – you just need a commitment to effectiveness and the long term fulfilment of your organisation's Mission.

why do scenario planning?

There's much more on this in the next section, but scenario planning will help you improve your organisation's performance by:

- Stimulating creative activity across your organisation – focussed on your future
- Opening up really big, new opportunities and ideas for improvement
- Drawing in new perspectives (from external as well as internal sources)

1. See the Resources section for more information

2. Again, see the Resources section for more information

