

About us

CfGS is a national charity and expert in all aspects of governance and scrutiny. Established in 2003, it has a long track record of supporting local government and the wider public sector, alongside the private and voluntary sector. It works nationally, regionally and locally to influence and improve governance policy and practice.

Its passion is ensuring that decisions are made in a way that is accountable, transparent, involves and is inclusive of others. It does this by primarily focusing on governance culture and ways of working, whilst recognising the importance of structures and processes. Equality, diversity and inclusion is important to CfGS both as an organisation and in its work and it is currently reviewing its approach.

Increasingly, CfGS is seeking to recognise and act on the significant changes that need to be made to the relationship between citizens and the state. A consequence of the pandemic, the ongoing impact of austerity, the cost-of-living crisis, climate changes and other major trends is an upending of traditional assumptions about how local democracy, and local governance, “works”.

CfGS wants its consultancy, learning and development training, and thought leadership, to be framed around a theory of change that reflects the likelihood that governance in the future will be focused on collaboration, partnership and relationships, and centred on community power rather than more traditional forms of decision-making. The challenge is to design and build systems of governance that deliver this while also delivering public services that are accountable, transparent and responsive. CfGS hopes to play a leading role in this work.

As a charity and social purpose consultancy, CfGS ‘punches above its weight’ in terms of its influence and impact. Within local government and the other sectors, CfGS has been central to significant governance debates and events, for example leading the governance review of Kensington and Chelsea Council post-Grenfell and promoting higher ethical standards in large multinationals, such as Skanska, wanting to reconnect their governance systems to the people and communities they serve.

Working with a small core team and network of associates and partners it undertakes research, policy development, consultancy and delivers training and events. CfGS is seen as credible, impartial and authoritative, often operating in difficult situations or with organisations looking to improve, alongside those wishing to lead the way.

Additional information:

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- [Our current training offer](#)