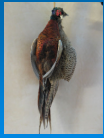


Community Planning



Community Planning

Community planning is a way of giving local people the opportunity to create a shared vision for their area and identify priorities for action which are agreed by a wide range of people, organisations and groups.

http://www.devon.gov.uk/community_planning-2.htm

10 actions to tackle health inequalities through community planning:

- Include health inequality targets as outlined in the 'Investing for Health' strategy in all Community Plans.
- Ensure health inequality targets have cross-cutting goals across key areas which have an impact on quality of life for people and communities e.g. education, housing, planning and economic development.
- Ensure voluntary and community participation on the Community Planning Partnership.



10 actions to tackle health inequalities through community planning:

- Use the Community Development and Health Network 'Toolkit on Engagement' to involve local people as co-designers, co-planners and co-providers of services.
- Link to existing area-based partnerships to ensure local organisations are involved e.g. Community Safety Partnerships, Investing for Health Partnerships and Healthy Living Centres.
- Actively encourage individuals to take responsibility for their own health.

10 actions to tackle health inequalities through community planning:

- Ensure targets for all areas of community plans such as transport and planning facilitate health improvement.
- Train all community planning partners with the skills to tackle health inequalities through understanding the social model of health, community development practices and health impact assessments.

10 actions to tackle health inequalities through community planning:

- Develop a local community health profile and engage with communities to build a baseline health audit for future monitoring of progress.
- Monitor and evaluate community planning outcomes to ensure they tackle health

The reality

- Community Planning Workshop held in February 2010
- The workshop was attended by Transition Committee Members, Councillors from both Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils, Directors, Officers and public sector representatives from central government departments including, DSD, Planning Service and Roads Service, the Public Health Agency and Northern Regional College.

Developing a community planning strategy: how to scope and filter the right areas and develop a plan and series of actions:

- 1. Review a broad area.
- 2. What is the current situation?
- 3. What do we want to achieve?
- 4. Plan a one page strategy.
- 5. What professional development do we need to progress the strategy?
- 6. Conduct research and evidence-based approach (based on views of people in the area).
- 7. SMART recommendations.
- 8. Do it, progress it and monitor it.

- Develop 'lift' statements: know what it is you are trying to achieve.

An alternative

- Prioritise areas based on health statistics
- Identify the key community development and capacity building requirements needed to ensure community engagement throughout process
- Conduct research and evidence-based approach (based on views of people in the area).
- What are the key development and capacity building requirements needed to ensure political engagement.
- What are the long term health inequalities that require a strategic intervention
- What are the short term actions that can be introduced locally
- Engage, plan, action
- Measure, modify, move on.

Why?

- Why do leisure centres close at the weekends when most people are off?
- Why do school playing fields lay idle most of the time?
- Why are community centres shut on a Saturday night when most anti-social behaviour occurs?
- Why do we give planning permission for off-licences in residential areas?
- Why does public transport lose a million passengers a year?
- Why do we allow more sugar to be added to food when diabetes levels are rising?

Finally

- Community planning has the potential to influence health outcomes and address health inequalities, but only if those charged with delivering it understand what it is and what their role is.