

'Communities have high expectations of public services and have a key role to play in helping to shape and co-produce better outcomes within their communities. If community planning partnerships are to unlock that potential, their foundations must be built on a strong understanding of their communities, and provide genuine opportunities to consult, engage and involve them'

Review of Community Planning and SOAs: Statement of Ambition, 2012

Falkirk Council's Community Learning & Development Service (CLDS) is integral to the delivery of identified outcomes for communities and the CLDS offer is consistent with Community Learning and Development Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnership:

CLDS will work with targeted individuals & groups within our most disadvantaged communities (geographical or thematic) to develop their learning and expertise so that they are better able to identify their assets and take action on issues that will lead to improved life chances and equity of opportunity.

CLDS AIMS for 2017/2018:

Work with community groups and provide support that leads to their:

- increased involvement in democracy
- increased involvement in partnership working, co-production activities
- increased delivery of services

METHOD

- Use a variety of methods to engage with local people consistent with the National Standards of Community Engagement.
- Work with local people to form community organisations
- Work with existing community organisations in, predominately SIMD areas to identify needs, barriers to participation & take action on community issues
- Provide capacity building support to enable community organisations to become more skilled, resilient and inclusive
- Assist the development of national and local partnerships to enable community organisations to influence decision making and coproduce services

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 19 groups assisted to explore management of community assets e.g. Dawson Sports Development Association^(FIG 1)
- 6 Community groups assisted to address food insecurity in relation to food poverty^(CASE STUDY 1)
- 78 community groups assisted to participate in democratic activity^(FIG 2)
- £907,000 of funding secured by CLDS supported community organisations & partnerships^(FIG 3)
- 52 community groups involved in partnership working & co-production of services^(CASE STUDY 1)
- 32% increase in community groups supported^(FIG 4)
- Support to Local Community Planning Core Group ie community engagement/consultation in East locality

NEXT STEPS

CLDS will:

- Assist in the development of community action plans in the East Locality
- Engage communities/individuals in the West Locality in place standard consultations exercises
- Co-design a reporting mechanism for community groups that can evaluate involvement in democracy, partnership working, co-production & delivery of services
- Establish a quarterly e-bulletin & annual community gathering event

RESULTS

2017/18 Supporting Community Asset Activity

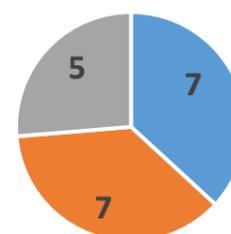


FIG 1

■ East ■ Central ■ West

2017/18 Capacity Building Activity

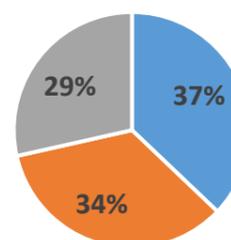


FIG 2

■ East ■ Central ■ West

2017/18 Funding Secured

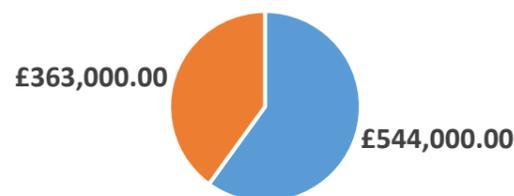


FIG 3

■ CLDS Supported Community Groups
■ CLDS Supported Partnerships

Comparison of Number of Community Groups Supported

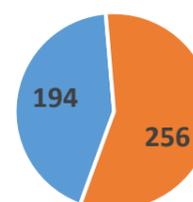


FIG 4

■ 2016/2017 ■ 2017/2018

CASE STUDY 1: Working with the Board of Management of Kersiebank Community Project to respond to local need

In December 2017 Falkirk Council Community Learning & Development delivered an intervention that addressed food poverty. At Kersiebank Community Project (KCP) it was apparent that the level of need in the local community related to food poverty was high. Kersiebank sits within an area designated in the top 5% most deprived by the Social Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

Action - In December 2017 the management committee of KCP consisted of only 2 active members. However, these two members quickly became aware of the need to take action related to food poverty in the local area. In conversation with the Community Education worker, a plan was designed to complement and add value to the CLD Food Project. This involved a campaign, led by the KCP Secretary (a local activist) to use social media and local contacts to address food poverty by; receiving donations of food, clothing, toys and hygiene products; work with the local Butcher to offer a "voucher" scheme for free, fresh butcher meat; use social media to promote the intervention to people and families who were in need. Over the weeks, the online campaign gathered huge support resulting in a many individuals and groups giving support to the project. Donations were received at KCP on a daily basis. A letter was written to the local Aldi store for support which was successful. Aldi agreed to donate all left over food from its store at closing time on Christmas Eve. This included fresh bread, vegetables and around 40 fresh Turkeys and Chickens.

The food was brought back to KCP and along with the donations of non-perishable goods over 60 families received food parcels that would provide enough for over the festive period. Along with the food parcels families also received wrapped presents and gifts for their children and hygiene packages. A number of local people volunteered their time to come and assemble and distribute the parcels on Christmas Eve.

Outcomes - Having delivered the food project and noted its apparent success a number of outcomes were obvious;

- Over 60 families in need received help from KCP
- The local community were brought together to take action on a local issue
- Increased awareness of KCP and its purpose and activities
- Use of social media to promote KCP and reach local people
- Motivation of KCP Management Committee and volunteers
- Increased skills and confidence of KCP Management Committee to address local issues
- Increased support for KCP from local groups and businesses including; local shop owners, Social Work Services, Police Scotland, Aldi, Falkirk Food Bank, local churches, the Community Council
- A clear vision for the future development of KCP

As a result of this activity 8 new management committee members have been recruited. This increases the skills, knowledge and expertise of the Management Committee to; create a vision for KCP, design activities and interventions that address local needs, promote the work of KCP, engage stakeholders and funders and create a sense of local ownership of the project, its building and resources.

Next Steps - The newly formed KCP Management Committee agreed that the project needs to build on the food poverty project with an emphasis on empowering people to break the cycle of food poverty. As a result the Management Committee have committed to delivering the following;

- Food Bank
 - KCP will keep a store of non-perishable food that can be distributed to local people and families in need
 - KCP will keep a store of personal hygiene goods that can be gifted to local people and families
- Cooking Classes
 - KCP has successfully delivered "Cooking on a Budget" classes in partnership with Forth Valley Health Board. KCP would aim to make these classes free and available to local people who would benefit from this activity
 - Donated food would be used to teach local people how to make nutritious, healthy and economical meals for themselves and their families.
- Lunch Clubs
 - KCP would use donated food to prepare free, healthy, nutritious meals for local people and families
 - KCP would recruit, train and support volunteers to deliver this service
- Advice & Support
 - KCP would partner with local agencies who can offer advice and support on relevant issues including; employment; welfare rights; benefits; parenting; finance & budgeting etc
 - These services would have a presence in KCP during classes and clubs allowing people to access support and advice in a safe, non-threatening environment.
 - KCP would signpost people in to wider community activities

The expected impact of this would be;

- Local people and families experiencing food poverty would have a point of contact for emergency help
- More local people and families being fed resulting in a reduction in health related issues
- Local people being educated to source, prepare and cook healthy, nutritious meals
- More people accessing advice and information on their rights, benefits and welfare entitlements
- An increase in knowledge of how to budget for and buy healthy food
- Engagement of local people as volunteers and increasing their skills, knowledge and experience leading to further learning opportunities, training and/or employment
- The overall reduction of Food Poverty in the Grangemouth Priority area

Summary

- The above case study is a strong example of the role CLD has to play in community capacity building. By supporting a local group, through CLD principles and processes, to address a pressing need in their community, a number of positive outcomes have been achieved.
- In recognising that community capacity building is best done by local community members and by giving them the skills, knowledge and confidence to act, CLD plays an essential role in improving the lives of the communities we work in.