

CHESTER AREA PARTNERSHIP : ANNUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Mapping of community empowerment and engagement in Chester

What Do We Mean By Community Engagement and Empowerment?

Community engagement can mean different things to different people, different communities and different services and situations. We believe that:

***Community engagement** is the involvement of communities in influencing the outcomes and decisions that are important to them. It involves local people and groups, stakeholders and public organisations working together to identify issues, needs and aspirations and agreeing an acceptable approach to finding solutions and achieving their aspirations*

***Community empowerment** furthers this by building confidence, skills, and the power of communities to influence and take decisions about services and initiatives that affect them and to design their own solutions.*

Cheshire West and Chester Council will use a range of engagement levels to ensure that we can provide the most appropriate means for our partners, local people and communities to be involved. It will:

- **Provide Information** - we will provide good quality and accurate information to support all of our community engagement activity and keep people informed about decisions, services and local events
- **Consult** - we will consult widely to enable partners, organisations, businesses, service users and local people to have a say in decisions at all levels
- **Involve** - we will involve partners, organisations, businesses, service users and local people in decision making and in the work that we do
- **Collaborate** - we will work in partnership with all public agencies; voluntary, community and faith / belief organisations and stakeholders to deliver better outcomes for local people
- **Empowerment** - we will provide support, opportunities and resources for communities to identify their issues and concerns and to design and deliver their own local responses.

(Extracts from Cheshire West & Chester Council's Community Engagement & Empowerment Strategy & Action Plan)

	Keeping Communities Informed	Consulting our Communities	Providing opportunities for people to involved (decision making / influencing)	Collaborating with Communities	Support and Encourage Community empowerment
What is your organisation going to do in 2011/12 to engage with local residents and community groups?					
How are you going to do this?					
In what areas of Chester will you do this?					
Will you work with any specific communities of interest eg : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lesbian, gay and bisexual community (LGB) • black and minority ethnic community (BME) • disabled community • children and young people • older people • faith community 					

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What resources do you have to carry this out? (Include staff, volunteer, venues, funding, own finance / budgets etc)					
Is there anything more you would like to do?					
Is there anything that you think is not needed / should be stopped?					
Is there anything that you think should be done in another way / differently?					
What are your plans for the next 2-3 years?					

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What do you need to do this? E.g. resources, partners support, approval from board etc					
Do you need any support / training etc to help you deliver community engagement / empowerment?					
Are there any gaps in your provision that you can identify?					
Are there any gaps in local provision that you can identify?					