

STRONGER COMMUNITIES TEAM

“There can be no vulnerability without risk, there can be no community without vulnerability; there can be no peace, and ultimately no life, without community”

M. Scott Peck – Author 1936 - 2005

Strategy Document 2007 - 2010



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

**Communities
Community Safety Resilience & Protection**

Updated March 2009

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For further information and details contact:

Peter Clarke – Stronger Communities Team Manager

Email – peter.clarke@nottsc.gov.uk

Tel – 01623 642304 or 07834928498

**STRONGER COMMUNITIES TEAM
STRATEGY DOCUMENT
2007-2010
Overview**

Communities Department

‘Closer to People and Places’

The Communities department aims to provide a joined-up approach to improving opportunities for communities and neighbourhoods across Nottinghamshire. It has recognised that the department needs to be flexible and responsive to accommodate increasing corporate, strategic and service demands. In addition we have acknowledged the desire for stronger community driven responses and for greater council engagement at the local level.

The Communities department will not be able to achieve these alone and it is our vision to work together with other departments and partners to tackle these priorities and deliver high quality, relevant and added value services for the people and communities of Nottinghamshire.

This strategy should be read in conjunction with:

- a) The county wide ‘Framework Community Strategy’
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/community-strategy2-final.pdf
- b) NCC Strategy – ‘All Together Better’
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/communitystrategy0509.pdf
- c) Local Area Agreement – Safer and Stronger Communities
(Intranet) nottsc.gov.uk/20060315nottslaa.pdf
- d) Notts Partnership – Comprehensive Engagement Strategy
www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk

Making Nottinghamshire **A BETTER PLACE**

AIM OF THIS STRATEGY

The purpose of this strategy document is to outline the strategic approach to community development and how it relates to and supports the delivery of Nottinghamshire County Council priorities. It demonstrates the activities the community development team undertakes within communities. It outlines the key priorities for the development of communities and it also shows the link between community development and the Nott's Partnership Comprehensive Engagement Strategy.

The document has been developed in order to confirm the commitment of the County Council and the community development service to translating national initiatives into local priorities for action appropriate to Nottinghamshire communities.

A strategic approach to community development is essential to:

- Enhance participation in the democratic process
- Extend local democracy and engender a sense of involvement and ownership
- Facilitate a partnership approach to community development work
- Address issues of social inclusion
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote involvement in community initiatives

This strategy will aim to show how community development officers:

- Empower individuals and communities
- Strengthen community and voluntary sector activities
- Improve partnership working between Nottinghamshire County Council, other agencies and communities
- Encourage effective interdepartmental and interagency work

It will be used to:

- Lead to more effective targeting of resources
- Raise awareness of the community development team's work
- Clarify the community development team's aims and methods of working
- Inform each individual workers service plans
- Evaluate our work through the use of the LAA performance indicators

"Responsibility does not lie with our leaders..... it lies with each of us individually"

The Dalai Lama

WHAT IS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

The Government through its Neighbourhood Renewal strategy describes it as - *“It aims to give people in geographical areas or communities of interest more control over their lives. It builds the confidence, capacity and sustainable networks in communities that are essential to effective and widespread participation. It supports communities to develop their own activities, services and assets, to respond to opportunities from outside and to engage with the agencies and policy makers that affect their lives. It also works with professionals and policy makers to enhance their capacity to engage effectively with communities and to change ways of working that prevent people from participating effectively”.*

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

To collectively bring about social change and justice, by working with communities (those that can be defined geographically and/or those defined by interest)” – (National Occupational Standards for CD work) to:

- identify their needs, opportunities, rights and responsibilities
- plan organise and take action
- evaluate the effectiveness and impact of action in all ways which challenge oppression and tackle inequalities

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ROLES

In fulfilling their role the Community Development Officers employ the following skills:

- They act as catalysts, facilitators, initiators, negotiators and challengers
- They are able to carry out consultations, develop networks and act as information points
- They provide training, guidance, support and encouragement

CORE VALUES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Social Justice:

- working towards a fairer society which respects civil and human rights and challenges oppression

Self-determination:

- individuals and groups have the right to identify shared issues and concerns as the starting point for collective action

Working and learning together:

- valuing and using the skills, knowledge, experience and diversity within communities to collectively bring about desired changes

Sustainable communities:

- empowering communities to develop their independence and autonomy whilst making and maintaining links to the wider society

Participation:

- everyone has the right to fully participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives

Reflective practice:

- effective community development is informed and enhanced through reflection on action

WHERE DO WE WORK?

There are 10 (full time equivalent) community development officers who are in District based offices across the County. Historically the majority of resources are based in the North of the County in the predominately former coal mining communities. For full details see Appendix C.

WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

As well as supporting and *working with community groups/organisations a lot of community development work is carried out with partners both internal and external. Some examples are:

Internal:

- Colleagues within Community Safety Resilience & Protection, Economic Development – Social Enterprise support, ACLS – Adult education courses in the community, Community Safety – facilitating events
- Other departments, Strategic Partnerships – LSP support, Education – Extended services, Children’s Services – Children’s Centres

External:

- Other LA’s – District/Borough community development teams, Police – Neighbourhood policing
- Voluntary Sector, District CVS’s, local resource/community centres

* However it should be noted that sometimes the support and help community groups/organisations wants directly conflicts with Nottinghamshire County Council priorities and/or decisions!

CHALLENGES FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

The future for community development in Nottinghamshire, as indeed the rest of Britain, will be informed and determined by national government initiatives and policies, local and regional developments and international concerns.

The community development team is central to the delivery and implementation of the County Councils corporate community development and regeneration agendas, working alongside partners and stakeholders to improve the quality of life for all communities in Nottinghamshire.

Initiatives in which the community development team will be actively involved with include:

Delivery of LAA targets - leading on the number of community plans (linked to community governance), supporting all of the 'Volunteering' targets and influencing through all community development work 'The % of people who feel they can influence decisions locally'

Local Strategic Partnerships – Encouraging community involvement and participation through Community Empowerment Networks (CEN's) and other local structures

Community Governance (Neighbourhood Management) – Community involvement and participation in neighbourhood structures, facilitating meetings, governance training etc.

Neighbourhood Renewal – Supporting Neighbourhood Management Teams (NMT's) and Neighbourhood pathfinders

Community Safety – Promoting events and organising activities that help achieve NCC community safety targets

Neighbourhood Policing – Assisting the police and other partners in identifying community priorities, facilitating meetings and events to promote safer neighbourhoods

Extended Services in and around schools – Helping families of schools in identifying and mapping existing provision, encouraging community and parent involvement

Children's Centres – Assisting partners on identifying need and the promotion of parent boards

Health Initiatives - Promoting events and organising activities that help achieve NCC health targets

Community cohesion - Promoting events and organising activities that help achieve NCC community cohesion targets

Lifelong Learning – working with Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) and other partners to encourage community learning and courses

Annually the Stronger Communities Team Service plan will be updated and amended to reflect any new initiatives or priorities.

Appendix A

Community Development Achievements 2008/2009

<u>Description</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Achieved</u>
Neighbourhoods with community plans	a) 15 Neighbourhoods to produce community plans	a) 16 Neighbourhoods assisted with plans
Community groups supported	a) 350 groups/orgs b) 150 assisted with funding applications c) Amount raised d) 250 people receive training	a) 370 groups supported b) 170 funding applications c) £743,000 d) 1174
Community Safety	a) 40 events/projects – Safety b) 10 Weeks of Action supported c) 30 Safer Neighbourhoods	a) 71 events/projects supported b) 13 Weeks of Action supported c) 34 Safer Neighbourhoods
Health Events	a) 30 Health Events/projects b) 7 Events promoting 'Better Services' for older people c) 7 Events promoting Accident Prevention for children	a) 66 Health Events/projects supported b) 50 Events promoting 'Better Services' for older people c) 3 Events promoting Accident Prevention for children
Neighbourhood Governance	a) 34 Neighbourhoods supported (NMT's/LAT's) b) 15 Local Areas supported (Parish/LAF/Area Partnerships)	a) 8 Neighbourhoods supported (NMT's/LAT's) b) 24 Local Areas supported (Parish/LAF/Area Partnerships)
Community Cohesion	a) 100 festivals/events b) 7 Cultural events c) 30 Hard to reach groups	a) 137 festivals b) 25 Cultural events c) 46 Groups supported
Building Better Communities	a) 10 BBC Projects supported	a) 17 BBC Projects supported
Partnership Working	a) The number of officer groups and partnerships supported (County, LSP, District etc.)	a) 136 groups and partnerships worked with

STRONGER COMMUNITIES **SERVICE PLAN 2009/10**

Where possible the PI's set for the Community Development team have been linked to the LAA targets as follows:

Stronger:

- NI 4 = Increase % of residents who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their area
- NI 3 = In the last 12 months have you been a member of a decision making group
- NI 7 = Create an environment for a thriving 3rd Sector

Cohesive:

- NI 1 = % of residents who feel that their area is one in which people from different backgrounds get on well together
- NI 5 = Overall how satisfied or dissatisfied with your local area as a place to live

Safer:

- NI 17 = Decrease the % of residents negative perception of ASB

Healthier:

- NI 120= All age all cause mortality – increase life expectancy and reducing health inequalities

Strategic Objective	Key tasks	Impact	Risk Analysis	Measures and outcome	Timescale	Reporting
Influencing Decision Making	<p>TI 1 - Number of General Community Groups supported</p> <p>a) 335 groups/orgs receive officer support, advice etc. b) 125 funding/grant applications assisted with c) Amount raised as a result of applications d) 450 people receive training (Committee skills, capacity building, IT course etc.)</p> <p>TI 2 – Neighbourhood Governance</p> <p>a) 23 Neighbourhood Structures supported (NMT's & LAT's) encouraging community participation b) 22 Local Area structures supported (Parishes, LAFs, Area Partnerships, Partnership Gps) delivering local action plans</p>	<p>Results of Intervention:</p> <p>Groups encouraged to link to local structures</p> <p>Individuals receive capacity training</p> <p>More people involved in the decision making process and increase in the number on groups or boards that make decisions</p> <p>Improved services for residents</p> <p>Positive relationship with C&VS</p>	<p>Financial risk for the continued operation of community groups who NCC currently support</p> <p>Measurement is through a survey and there is a risk that local people will feel less involved in decision making if we reduce our support</p>	<p>Increase in NI 4, 3 & 7:</p> <p>NI1 LAA measure (Oct 2010) through Place Survey - To Increase by 4% the % of people who feel they can influence decision making</p> <p>Other Measures: To increase the % of people on decision making boards</p> <p>To increase the perception of a 'Thriving 3rd Sector'</p>	<p>March 10</p>	<p>Monthly workers records, etc</p> <p>1/4erly to PRIDE</p>

Strategic Objective	Key tasks	Impact	Risk Analysis	Measures and outcome	Timescale	Reporting
Build Cohesive Communities	<p>TI 3 – Number of Community Plans</p> <p>a) 14 Community Plans (Neighbourhood, Area or Parish) supported/assisted with</p> <p>TI 4 – Building Better Communities</p> <p>a) 15 BBC projects supported involving community participation</p> <p>TI 5 – Community Events</p> <p>a) 68 festivals/events supported (Fun days, Fundraising, visits etc.)</p> <p>b) 19 Cultural events supported</p> <p>c) 29 Hard to reach groups supported</p>	<p>Results of Intervention:</p> <p>More people involved in decisions that affect their area</p> <p>Area is a better place to live</p> <p>Better understanding of other cultures</p> <p>Difficult to reach communities engaged</p>	<p>Measurement is through a survey and there is a risk that local people will feel less involved in decision making if we reduce our support</p> <p>Financial risk as BBC projects are dependent on NCC funding</p>	<p>Increase in NI 1, 4 & 5:</p> <p>NI1 LAA measure (Oct 2010) through Place Survey - To Increase by 4% the % of people who feel they can influence decision making</p> <p>NI4 - To Increase by 4% the % of people who think that people from different backgrounds get on well together</p> <p>Other measures: Overall how satisfied or dissatisfied with your local area as a place to live</p>	<p>March 10</p>	<p>Monthly workers records, etc</p> <p>1/4erly to PRIDE</p>

Strategic Objective	Key tasks	Impact	Risk Analysis	Measures and outcome	Timescale	Reporting
Build Safer Communities	TI 6 - Community Safety a) 42 events/projects around community safety organised to raise awareness b) 7 'Weeks of Action' supported c) 29 Safer Neighbourhood Teams supported – community assisted with priority setting	Results of Intervention: Residents perception of ASB issues improved Better quality of life	Measurement is through a survey and there is a risk that local people will feel less involved in decision making if we reduce our support	Increase in NI 17: NI17 LAA measure (Oct 2010) through Place Survey - Decrease the % of residents negative perception of ASB	March 10	Monthly workers records, etc 1/4erly to PRIDE
Build Healthier Communities	TI 7 – Health a) 7 events supported – 'Information and advice for vulnerable homelessness people and wellbeing' b) 32 events/projects promoting Health initiatives supported/organised (Warm Well & Wise etc.)	Results of Intervention: More people receiving advice and taking up healthier lifestyles Increased life expectancy Better quality of life	Risk that health inequalities will increase for vulnerable people if we reduce our support	Increase in NI 120: NI120 LAA measure through NHS data - Increase life expectancy and reduce health inequalities	March 10	Monthly workers records, etc 1/4erly to PRIDE
Improved Working	TI 8 – Partnership Working a) Number of officer groups and partnerships supported (County, LSP, District, Extended Services, Children's Centre's/SureStarts etc.)	Results of Intervention: Joint working and cutting down on duplication	Risk that partnerships will weaken and reduce effectiveness	Local Target: More efficient working	March 10	Monthly workers records, etc Local Record only

STRONGER COMMUNITIES CONTACT DETAILS**Ashfield Community Development Project**

Ashfield Play Project
 Morven Avenue
 Sutton in Ashfield
 Notts NG17 1AN

Telephone 01623 443751
 Fax 01623 443751

Community Development Officers: Richard Bacon (FT)
 David Parker (FT)

Administrator: Janet Stallings (PT)
 Monday pm
 Wednesday all day
 Friday am (flexible)

Bassetlaw Community Development Project

c/o Manton Children's Centre
 Community Way off Shrewsbury Rd
 Manton
 Worksop S80 2TU

Telephone 01909 476111
 Fax 01909 531335

Community Development Officers: Frank Raspin (FT)
 Nicola Simpson (FT)

Administrator: Vacant (FT)

Harworth Office

115 Scrooby Road
 Harworth
 Doncaster DN11 8JT

Telephone 01302 743796
 Fax 01302 743727

Resource Worker: Jan Shail (FT)

Mansfield Community Development Project

Park Road Resource Centre
53 Park Road
Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 8ER

Telephone 01623 642304

Fax 01623 631004

Community Development Officers: Jess Knight (FT)
Jeanne Raspin (PT – Job Share)
Jill Papper (PT – Job Share)

Administrator: Janet Stallings (PT)
Monday am
Tuesday am
Thursday all day (flexible)

Newark Community Development Project

56 Hallam Road
Boughton
Nr Newark NG22 9TL

Telephone 01623 869502

Fax

Community Development Officers: Rachael Johnson (FT)
Paul Peacock (FT)

Administrator: Sarah Short (PT)
Monday 9.30 – 2.30
Tuesday 9.30 – 2.30
Thursday 9.30 – 2.30

Sherwood Community Development Project

56 Hallam Road
Boughton
Newark NG22 9TL

Telephone 01623 860891

Fax 01623 835228

Community Development Officer: Neil Bettison (FT)

Administrator: Grant White (PT)
Monday All Day
Tuesday pm
Wednesday pm
Thurs/Fri (half day alternate)

South Nottinghamshire Community Development Project

Dayncourt School
Cropwell Road
Radcliffe on Trent NG12 2FQ

Telephone 0115 933 6486

Fax 0115 911 0092

Community Development Officer: Carmen Cameron (FT)

Administrator: Stella Trussler (12hrs)

Stronger Communities Strategy



“Here is Edward Bear coming downstairs now,
Bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head behind
Christopher Robin. It is as far as he knows, the only way
of coming downstairs but somewhere he feels there is
another way. If only he could stop for a moment and think
of it”

A A Milne

This quote is a reminder to all stakeholders that it is important to take time out and reflect on new and potentially new ways of working to further develop a shared vision.