



*Promoting
equal
citizenship,
justice and
equality of
opportunity*

North-West Community Network
Draft Development Plan 2006 - 2010

**Vision
Statement**

*“North West Community Network
will work to achieve a genuinely
participative democracy in the North-West”*



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Strategic Aim

1

To encourage, through networking and information exchange, greater co-operation between community and voluntary groups in the North-West.

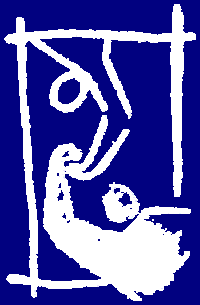
ACTIVITIES:

Network Membership:

- Create, promote and profile benefits of Network membership
- Continually source new network membership and associated subscription
- Increase sectoral representation on Executive Committee

Maintaining Information resources:

- Consistently review and maintain Network database of contact and reference information
- Establish publication schedule for Network Update & regular Network Fora
- Update & promote Network website as a key communication tool
- Report information on local needs via Network Update and Network website



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ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

Facilitating Co-operation & Learning:

- Convene meetings of network members on key issues of common interest
- Convene meetings of partner Networks to discuss sectoral issues
- Share ideas and experiences locally through Network news and lunchtime events
- Publicise NWCN consultation process through website, Network update, local press and other media outlets
- Organise for network members to visit local projects to increase awareness of best practice



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Strategic Aim

2

To preserve, consolidate and develop the role of the Network as the voice of the Community and Voluntary sector in the North West

ACTIVITIES:

Representation:

- Promote Network as representative body for C&V Sector
- Ensure participation in local strategies involving all of the key agencies
- Ensure NWCN is represented on all relevant community and statutory consultation groups
- Inform and engage support from local community leaders

Community Consultation:

- Promote network as facilitator of community consultation in all areas of North-West
- Establish mechanisms to support community consultation & liaison
- Source Service Level Agreements to facilitate community engagement in key consultations
- Feed into local/new Council Community Planning process

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ACTIVITIES (cont'd):

Policy:

- Monitor and review all current policies and developments as they impact on the sector and ensure key policy documents are responded to as appropriate
- Carry out research and publish findings on subjects identified by Executive Committee, member groups and wider sector as potential issues for lobbying for change
- Place policy and campaigning actions in the context of Community Development principles and advocate for these principles to government agencies and across other sectors
- Act as a mechanism for the sharing of good practice and sharing on policies and practices relevant to Community Development activity in the North-West

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Strategic Aim 3

To facilitate networking opportunities between members of the sector and those with decision making influence on the sector.

ACTIVITIES:

- Develop networking opportunities through information events, question and answer sessions between members of the network and local decision makers
- Establish and facilitate feedback sessions between CV reps on relevant agencies and wider CV sector
- Develop lobbying/campaigning capabilities and facilitate similar development throughout the local CV sector
- Further develop relationships with other networks and specific interest groups promoting greater skill and information sharing
- Initiate research and/or specific policy on strategic issues of relevance to the work and advancement of local groups
- Facilitate discussion groups on proposed changes to government policy and advocate for agreed positions
- Utilise experience and knowledge of membership in influencing decision makers on issues affecting the CV sector

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Strategic Aim

4

To develop and maintain strategic linkages between (the Network and) all stakeholders in order to advocate on behalf of the (community & voluntary) sector.

ACTIVITIES:

- Conduct regular meetings with common as well as general interest groups from across the sector
- Conduct regular meetings with non-sectoral groups
- Establish and maintain ongoing informal contact with all CV Groups, Government Depts., Statutory Agencies and Funding Bodies
- Establish and maintain structured contact with Government Departments, and Funding Bodies
- Convene regular seminars on behalf of sector with Statutory Agencies/Funding Bodies
- Maintain and develop liaison with other community development, geographical and thematic Networks

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