

Resilient Communities

This means:

- Enabling and inspiring communities to be confident, cohesive, and forward thinking
- Developing an approach that ensures that when any public service is working in an area that additional skills and capacity are strengthened within that community
- Co-ordinating an approach across public service delivery that maximises the impact of community benefits
- Further developing community ownership models including Community Asset Transfers (CATS), micro social enterprises and community shares

Why is this a priority for the partners?

- ✓ Effective, successful and resilient places have the ability to resolve their own problems, respond to and bounce back from economic, social and environmental issues;
- ✓ Resilient communities are well connected within the area and to other agencies and organisations outside of their community;
- ✓ A well connected community is able to work with the public agencies co-operatively to determine priorities for that community and be a key partner in delivering these priorities; and
- ✓ This approach requires a workforce in the public sector that is skilled in working with communities to support determination of their priorities and enable their delivery.

What is the evidence behind this story?

- Research shows that 'Resilient Communities' have support from all sectors to solve problems, are well connected and able to make decisions.
- Public sector bodies have provided support and capacity to specific communities of need; however this work has not always been sustainable, once the intervention ceases.
- Public services can change the emphasis of their work in communities from direct support and intervention to a more co-operative style of working where local communities determine their own priorities and identify solutions.

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What are we committed to doing?

- ✓ Learning lessons from previous community based work so that future work has a significant and long term impact
- ✓ Changing our ways of working so that whenever public services work with communities we build on and develop the skill levels within that community
- ✓ Working jointly with communities to understand, develop and implement long term aspirations and plans that build on the strengths of that community

What specific actions will we take to support these commitments?

- ✓ Train and develop key public sector employees in these different ways of working
- ✓ The Public Services Board will agree a set of community benefits² that will support local communities and that can be delivered by the community and social organisations, public organisations, and private organisations
- ✓ Develop opportunities for residents to be more active in their communities which leads to improvements in health and well-being
- ✓ Design and develop projects with the community in areas such as Holywell, Flint and Shotton so that the community is able to determine the priorities and have the skills and capacity to continue the work in the long term
- ✓ Establish new tools such as 'Community Shares'³ and 'Social Prescribing'⁴ that enable communities to develop their local assets and improve their health and well-being
- ✓ Support the development of community networks that can be co-ordinated and maintained by local communities
- ✓ Change our long term physical planning for communities so that it enables the development of community buildings and natural and green spaces that better connect people

² Delivery of added value through the Community Benefits is linked to the procurement of contractors on capital build programmes. They can also be delivered through grant awards and Community Asset Transfers. They ensure wider social, environmental and economic issues are taken into account during the project life cycle.

³ Community Shares are non-transferrable, withdrawable share capital unique to Co-op and Community Benefit Society Legislation and can be used as a method to engage the community in becoming shareholders (owners) of community businesses.

⁴ Social Prescribing is a means of enabling primary care services to refer patients with social, emotional or practical needs to a range of local, non-clinical services, often provided by the voluntary and community sector.

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Where should we see an impact?

- ✓ Ways of working changed across all sectors that strengthens communities
- ✓ The strength of community and social organisations that are able to provide support to local people increased
- ✓ Opportunities for people to improve their health and well-being increased
- ✓ Use and appreciation of the natural environment and use of the outdoors increased
- ✓ Take up of economic activity by local people increased
- ✓ Quantity and quality of benefits that support local communities ('community benefits') increased

Links with other priorities:

- ✓ **Economy and Skills** – developing skills for employment opportunities, reducing worklessness and the impact of social reform
- ✓ **Community Safety** – making communities safer
- ✓ **Well-being and Independent Living** – providing information and support for people to take responsibility for their own health and that of their own families
- ✓ **Environment** – developing greater access opportunities to the green infrastructure