

LSICD15 (SQA Unit Code - FX6A 04)

Use a Community Development approach to support collaborative and partnership work



Overview

Key Area Four is about the role of Community Development practitioners in supporting different communities, groups, public bodies and voluntary organisations to understand each other. The purpose is to encourage all concerned to build positive relationships and working agreements to achieve their common aims. The standards reflect the different perspectives and ways that Community Development practitioners can engage with communities and other bodies to encourage partnership or collaborative working within and between sectors. They may be acting on behalf of groups, voluntary organisations or public bodies or from within communities.

This standard relates to the role of Community Development practitioners in encouraging and supporting collaborative work. Community Development practitioners enable groups and organisations (within the voluntary and community sectors and communities of interest or geographical areas) to work together in various partnership and collaborative arrangements, in order to achieve common aims, access resources or increase their influence. Many Community Development practitioners have responsibility for encouraging and supporting community members to work collaboratively within partnerships and consortia/forums. Other relevant aspects include setting up projects and partnerships. Practitioners involved in this area of work may find standards within Key Area Six relevant.

This standard is relevant to Community Development practitioners who support collaborative and partnership working. Further to this, they will be expected to respond to the needs of communities, and draw support from and use personal reflection to identify if the other standards in Key Area Four are relevant to their responsibilities and work remit.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 facilitate groups to identify common needs and the potential for collaborative action based on the values and perspectives of all those involved
- P2 encourage the identification of, and contact between, existing groups with similar interests to share ideas, experience and practice
- P3 support groups to clearly identify and agree aims and objectives of collaborative work and develop short- and long-term strategies
- P4 support groups to evaluate the implications of joining partnerships for achieving their aims and explore potential risks from legal, organisational, regulatory, statutory and funders' requirements
- P5 provide information to groups about existing partnerships, their aims and work, and opportunities for involvement
- P6 enable groups to set up structures and systems for transparent and accountable collaborative work which are based on inclusive and participatory methods
- P7 encourage diversity in the development of planning and structural arrangements to deliver policy initiatives which meet community needs
- P8 support groups to create, promote and take up opportunities to share or develop skills, values, knowledge and experience to work effectively together
- P9 encourage collaborative working which promotes a climate of trust and empathy based on mutual respect, which recognises and addresses blocks to participation
- P10 support monitoring and evaluation of partnership or collaborative working relationships and the use of the information to make changes
- P11 support groups to review the effectiveness of joint working arrangements and the resources committed to these

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

The following knowledge and understanding statements relate to the four standards within Key Area Four. It is not necessarily the case that every Key Area Four knowledge statement relates to every standard, but it is likely that a knowledge statement relates to more than one standard.

The rationale and context

- K1 the relationship between representative and participatory democracy, democratic decision-making and participatory practice
- K2 the concept of political literacy, rights and responsibilities associated with governance, and policies and practices relating to citizenship
- K3 the complexity and diversity of local and national government initiatives and policies, partnerships, regulators, and advisory and accountable bodies that community groups may be expected to relate to or meet the requirements of
- K4 the contribution that diverse communities and autonomous groups make to improving localities and services
- K5 the differences and linkages between the concepts of Community Development, community empowerment, community involvement, community engagement, community capacity building and other key ideas which are present in government policies and initiatives
- K6 the differences and linkages between concepts such as cohesion, inclusion and exclusion, and social capital, and the positive contribution that people make to collaborative working
- K7 the differences between information giving, consultation, participation, working together and joint decision-making as approaches to engaging with communities

Powers of public bodies and the duties and obligations they have to communities

- K8 how public bodies are regulated and managed
- K9 how the different levels and layers of local, national and international government decision-making can affect communities
- K10 the responsibilities and development needs of community members involved in decision-making as part of local governance and devolved structures
- K11 the duties and responsibilities public bodies have to communities
- K12 how Community Development practitioners can work with public bodies to promote accessible ways for them to carry out their responsibilities to engage with communities

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Factors which support effective partnership working

- K13 the range of partnership organisations that make, or contribute to, decisions that affect the communities they work with/within and how the decisions or recommendations they make can be influenced
- K14 the diversity of groups and communities within a specified locality
- K15 forms of injustice, discrimination and social exclusion that operate globally, nationally and locally which impact on the lives of individuals and communities
- K16 how power and power relationships and power differentials impact on community based strategies and approaches for creating inclusive partnerships
- K17 the historical and current social, political and economic context of the communities being engaged with
- K18 current and historical initiatives designed to increase community involvement, engagement and empowerment within a specified locality and how to access supporting sources of information, advice and resources
- K19 different levels of representation and accountability in joint working between groups, communities and other bodies
- K20 what motivates people to engage actively with community initiatives
- K21 barriers to involvement in community initiatives and ways of overcoming them
- K22 multi-agency approaches to and models of collaborative working and the implications for community engagement/involvement
- K23 resource and support implications for engaging with the wide spectrum of potential stakeholders
- K24 the life cycle of partnerships, their limitations and the factors that can cause vulnerability and lack of sustainability

Techniques and methods

- K25 inclusive and participatory techniques for partners to negotiate, agree, review and evaluate common aims, objectives, policy development and planning to achieve shared goals
- K26 models of advocacy which are inclusive and support the empowerment of communities
- K27 techniques and approaches for service providers to be accountable to communities
- K28 exit strategies for positive endings when working on initiatives or projects with a set life span
- K29 organisational systems and inclusive processes to support strategic collaborative work across networks and partnerships
- K30 methods which facilitate collective learning opportunities for effective collaborative work

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- K31 techniques and frameworks for the monitoring, review and evaluation of collaborative work
- K32 communication systems which provide accessible formats and processes to inform and support collaborative work and the dissemination of outcomes

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Additional Information

Values

Key Area Four is underpinned by the five Community Development key values of: Equality and Anti-discrimination, Social Justice, Collective Action, Community Empowerment and Working and Learning Together.

The following examples correspond to each of the key values:

1. the autonomy and diversity of communities involved in partnerships is respected
2. barriers to involvement for marginalised communities are recognised and addressed
3. structures are developed which utilise the skills, knowledge and experience of community members and others
4. creative ways of working together are encouraged and partnership members are collectively accountable to the wider community
5. shared learning from each other is built into the regular activities of the partnership

Glossary

Groups

Groups is used as a generic term and includes organisations and agencies

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