

## Aims of the award

### Specific Aim:

The primary aim of the award is to provide participants (community volunteers and activists) with the underpinning knowledge and skills required to work more effectively in their communities and develop opportunities for growth and change. It is an introductory level programme and would provide national recognition of their skills and abilities in relation to using CLD approaches.

### General Aims:

- To provide an opportunity to gain a formal qualification for volunteers who are, or may in the future be, engaged in supporting change within their communities;
- To develop a common understanding of the purpose and impact of community involvement in dealing with community issues;
- To develop skills and knowledge of Community Activists aligned with the National Competencies for CLD;
- To support participants to respond to the ever-changing environment of policies and initiatives at both local and national levels;
- To encourage and support community activists to become reflective practitioners;
- To enhance confidence and put into practice skills and knowledge gained through training;
- To improve service delivery and increase responses to the needs of communities through embedding a CLD approach within communities.

### Specific aims

#### Unit 1 – Exploring and Understanding Community Activism

- To explore the core values and principles underpinning community activism
- To develop knowledge and understanding of issues related to working with communities
- To develop knowledge and understanding of national policies, guidance and priorities in relation to working with communities
- To develop knowledge and understanding about participation in society and what motivates others to become involved, including identifying barriers to participation
- Identify skills relevant to working in communities
- Explore the value of evidencing the impacts of community action

**Unit 2 – Your Community: Who are they and how do you reach them?**

- To develop an understanding of what makes a community
- To raise awareness the benefits of using demographic information to identify community needs
- To develop skills, knowledge and understanding around engaging and consulting with communities using CLD approaches and methods
- To provide participants with the skills needed to develop an understanding of the issues facing their community and how to support them to meet their needs and aspirations

**Unit 3 – Taking Control of what Affects Your Community**

- To examine the true meaning of participation in terms of creating change in communities
- To raise awareness of theoretical concepts of power
- To develop an understanding of where the power to make changes in communities lies
- To develop an awareness of public policy-making processes and the scope for community involvement.
- To identify individual and collective methods of campaigning, influencing decision makers and motivating change
- To explore different avenues for finding and generating support

**Unit 4 – Putting it into Practice**

- To utilise the skills and knowledge developed in previous units within a community setting
- To define a relevant issue of concern in a specific community
- To develop an action plan relating to the identified issue
- To implement, monitor and evaluate this activity
- To reflect on their role within the project and the impact it has had on the community
- To present their findings to an appropriate audience

