

Course Information

Pre-course Information Session

This initial session has been designed to allow participants to learn more about the training programme, its development and how it will be delivered locally. They should have an opportunity to meet tutors involved in the delivery and have an introduction to the ethos and values of CLD. An application process will allow both participants and tutors to assess if they are on the correct training programme.

Session 1 – What is Community Learning and Development?

An opportunity to explore and begin to understand the ethos, values and principles of community learning and development, its purpose and approach. Examine popular definitions of community activism, their own values and attitudes and their current involvement in their communities.

Session 2 – Being a Community Activist

This session provides an opportunity to explore and clarify the roles and responsibilities of a community activist and increase knowledge and understanding of how their contribution and the impact of collective action fits with local and national priorities, national perspective and outcome focused practice.

Session 3 - Participation and Inclusion

Looking at how we can encourage and support community members to participate in their community, exploring barriers to participation and how these can be overcome. Introducing the theory of group development and group work practice.

Session 4 – Making a Difference

Outcome focussed practice – what is it and how do we embed this in the work we are involved in in our communities. Why it is important to know what the difference is between delivering a service and providing an opportunities to make change happen, to support individuals and communities to make a difference.

Session 5 – Who Are Your Community?

This session is about the identification of Community whether by locality or community of interest. Looking at using readily available data and statistics to help you understand more about individuals and groups within communities, what hopes and aspirations they have, the level of provision already available etc. Developing research skills that will assist in reaching the most vulnerable, identify gaps in service etc.

Session 6 – Equal and Equality

Is treating people equally ensuring equality? Looking at the 2010 Equality Act what can be done in local communities and by practitioners and activists to ensure equality of access to what is happening, being delivered.

Session 7 – Engagement getting your community on board

Examining the National Standards for engagement and how we can implement them in practice.

This session will introduce the participants to a number of practical approaches to use when engaging with local community members and stakeholders and provides an opportunity to raise knowledge and understanding of engaging and consulting with communities.

Session 8 – Who holds the power?

Explore who holds power and makes decisions about your community, barriers to communication, how to support and encourage your community to participate in the decision making process, practical information about campaigning.

Session 9 – Influencing Decision Makers

Community Empowerment Bill - how can the community become more involved with stakeholders who make the decisions about services delivered to local communities. Explore the effectiveness of campaigning and identify and develop skills and understanding around a variety of methods.

Session 10 - Making Things Happen

Looking at successful community action projects, exploring what makes them work and how to translate the theory into practice. Beginning to think about pulling together all the previous sessions into a local community project.

Session 11 –Did we make a difference?

The importance of monitoring and evaluation –measuring distance travelled and impact of action taken and how we can evidence this to others. Developing knowledge and skills to use for a variety of situations where evaluation evidence can be used to further develop and support community action. Looking at self- evaluation and the CLD competences

Session 12 – What needs to Change and how will we do it?

Put into practice methods of engagement, decision making and campaigning skills learnt on the course in your own community.

Carry out a session in your own area and from this develop an action plan.

Developing the idea of engaging with their community to identify a real need and planning the project they will carry out to do this prior to the re-call session.

Recall and Feedback Session

To allow you the opportunity to present your project back to the full group, sharing experiences and celebrating learning. Allow for feedback from peers, tutors and invited guest/stakeholders.