**30/5/17 World Café discussion on The Role and Opportunities for CLD (John Galt)**

**The role of the CLD worker is to:**

* Help communities to understand local democratic processes
* Connecting communities with decision makers. Being the bridge.
* Encouraging public bodies to be more on board with community needs as well as supporting communities to engage.
* Encourage wider involvement – beyond the usual participants – door to door if needed!
* Be able to use a range of creative engagement methods relevant to communities
* Understand differences/potential tensions within communities. Encourage public bodies to avoid simplistic assumptions about communities.
* Open up opportunities in communities for dialogue about how communities work – where power lies – differences in views in the community – how to influence public bodies and how to do things for themselves.
* Understand the relevant data about communities (SIMD etc) and encourage communities to understand them to. Good data analysis is part of community engagement – not a replacement for it!
* Not shy away from exploring power relationships in communities.
* Work in partnership and encourage others to do so.
* Be a supportive point of contact for groups in communities who want to get things done.
* Chip away at the traditional view that ’the Council does everything’ – both with public sector bodies and in communities.
* Join the dots for people. eg Signposting to the right people around assets transfer.
* Signpost communities to people who can help. Don’t presume you have all the answers.
* Listen to what communities want – not only what public bodies think they need.
* Sometimes the role might be to highlight pitfall as well as opportunities.
* Take an organic approach to working with communities. All communities are different.

**Opportunities/Issues**

* Be confident about bringing people together in communities. (It’s our job!)
* The Empowerment Act is giving us ‘permission’ to do more developmental work with communities. Some CLD roles have become too service delivery focused in recent years.
* Concerns about lack of knowledge of the details of the Act for generic workers.
* Most people felt that it’s not the role of the CLD worker to provide all of the technical support around asset transfer – but important that they know how the process works in their area. Make communities aware of the local asset register.
* Make use of learning opportunities currently being offered by SCDC, DTAS, What Works Scotland on things like PB or the new National Standards for Community Engagement.
* Equally important to be confident to use our core CLD skills – understanding communities and encouraging and supporting community action.
* Make sure we work with third sector CLD partners and other public agencies (Health Boars etc) – more opportunities to learn and plan together.
* More case studies of successful stories where community groups have made a real difference and what support from CLD workers they found most useful. Sharing stories that could motivate and inspire other people. iDevelop can be better used to share stories and encourage discussion.