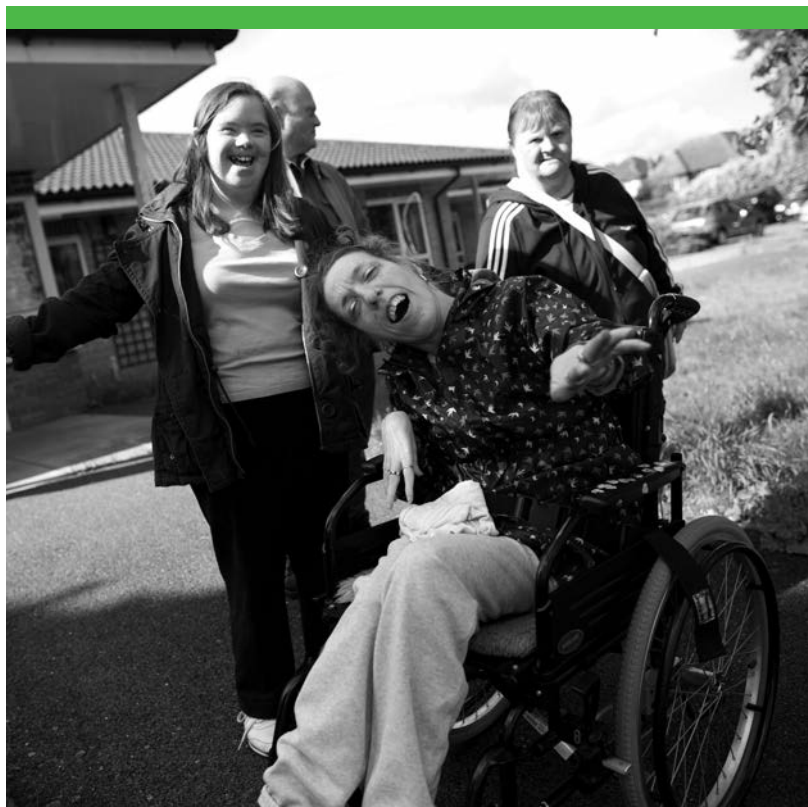


Developing community skills - what is it I can do...

4



...if I am a person who is
able to represent my
community?

If I am able to represent my community I can:

- be trusted to represent local people and local issues
- be connected more widely than just with those I know through my personal beliefs and networks
- bridge diversity with my ability to engage, motivate and mobilise with a view to creating holistic community cohesion
- maintain the knowledge and experience I have of the provision of mutual support systems in neighbourhoods and communities by open dialogue and participation with people who are receiving services, with groups delivering them and with those commissioning them
- provide evidence of the added value that informal support systems provide
- promote the existence and value of support networks, particularly for reaching out to those who are not involved or whose voices are not heard
- support funding applications to develop new provision for unmet needs
- advocate the importance of community skills development, using a community assets based approach
- influence policy development to ensure it recognises and responds to local needs.

I can make the most of informal community support by:

- creating and sustaining meaningful relationships with individuals, groups and organisations in my area and beyond
- promoting, publishing and enabling opportunities for individuals and groups to be connected and encouraging membership
- reading and researching—making sure I have up-to-date information
- disseminating information relevant to the health and wellbeing of the local community
- advocating and valuing participation in communities of interest and/or of place
- earning trust and confidence in speaking on behalf of others
- challenging the status quo when local needs are unmet
- measuring and evaluating the impact of local community support
- liaising with decision makers to influence change.



Potential outcome

I fully understand local issues that affect people living in my area. I am trusted to campaign, represent and lobby to effect change.



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