

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

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...if I am a person who supports a number of group activities in my neighbourhood or community?

If I am able to support groups in my neighbourhood and or community I can:

- be informed and therefore empowered to speak up about local issues
- be connected with the right people to influence change
- use the vast amount of knowledge and experience I have of the provision of mutual support systems in neighbourhoods and communities
- demonstrate the added value that informal support systems provide
- create and strengthen support networks – and reach out to those who are not involved or whose voices are not heard
- attract funding to develop new provision to meet gaps in services
- plan for the future using data to inform thinking
- understand the importance that policy has on service provision and make connections between opportunities and local need.

I can make the most of informal community support by:

- creating and sustaining relationships with groups and organisations in my area and beyond
- identifying, creating and promoting opportunities for individuals and groups to be connected
- reading and researching—making sure I have up-to-date information
- scoping and mapping local activity and support systems
- promoting and enabling participation in communities of interest or place
- drawing on a range of mutual or community support systems and raising the profiles of organisations
- recognising the skills, knowledge and expertise needed to deliver safe services and enable access to personal development and learning and skills development
- assessing local needs against current service provision and providing feedback to service providers by inputting into 'local accounts' (see insert 1)
- liaising with decision makers to influence change.



Potential outcome

I can effectively represent community need and am able to influence and develop service provision through influencing health and wellbeing boards' joint commissioning strategy.



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