

## ACTIVE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

As noted in the policy document, the wide and diverse range of our communities means that for some, community capacity building and becoming an 'active community' will be a relatively short journey but for others the process will require a longer term approach if the true ethos of community capacity building is to be adhered to.

In some communities, the starting point will be to nurture more active individuals to act as a catalyst for community capacity building.

This action plan acknowledges that the process of building capacity in communities is intrinsically linked with having active individuals in that community. By supporting and developing active individuals, we create an environment that encourages and nurtures community capacity. This in turn encourages, promotes and supports. Both the active individuals and active communities policies and action plans seek to draw on the cyclical nature of this and the critical interdependencies between the two policies/action plans. Therefore some activities will be identified in both plans with different, but complimentary outcomes which support these interdependencies.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<b>What we are going to do</b>	<b>What we want/expect it to achieve/improve</b>	<b>Who is responsible for this piece of work</b>
<b>Provide Information, Advice and Guidance to people wanting to become actively involved in their communities</b>		
Develop a communication plan to clearly explain what advice, information and guidance is available.	Communities and staff are clear what Information, Advice and Guidance is available in order to prepare to 'step up'	Steve Andrew - Programme Manager
Re-scope and strengthen the Local Engagement Officer scheme to provide a single point of contact for local community groups to engage with Council	Support community groups and elected members to make contact with relevant support within the Council and other known local assets.  To understand levels of community activity in areas and, where relevant, seek to stimulate action.	Philip Williams – Lead Commissioner
Work with CCG and partners to explore potential for a web accessed single portal to sites containing relevant information, analysis and advertising of community activity and volunteering opportunities	Provide single portal for communities to navigate and access information on community assets, need analysis, support and opportunities. Link volunteers to community opportunities	Kathryn Rees – Lead Commissioner Steve Andrew - Programme Manager Neil Dixon - Strategic Needs Analysis Manager
Compile portfolio of GCC work on Active Communities and make available to communities. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>advice, information and guidance</li> </ul>	Make available resources to assist community groups to come together and take action	Steve Andrew – Programme Manager Officer Co-ordination Group

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training courses</li> <li>• tool kits</li> <li>• case studies</li> </ul>		
<p>Establish key information sources that communities can access to provide them with relevant information on subjects that equip them to make informed decisions on how to, and when to 'step up' in a safe and legal way.</p>	<p>Provide access and/or signpost to subject specific information and guidance to community groups on topics such as Human Resources, Finance, Health &amp; Safety, Asset Management and Property Services (AMPS) etc to enable them to fully understand what is required of them in prior to them 'stepping up'</p> <p>This will allow community groups to be fully aware of any legal, technical and statutory requirements, to enable them to seek appropriate advice, guidance and/or training to support them in developing safe quality community provision.</p>	<p>Steve Andrew – Programme Manager Officer Co-ordination Group</p>
<p>Review arrangements for supporting Voluntary and Community Sector co-ordination with other partners.</p>	<p>Groups can acquire the relevant skills, knowledge and funding to form strong and appropriate structures that enable them to achieve their aims.</p>	<p>Philip Williams – Lead Commissioner</p>
<p>Create stronger, formal links between library/contact centre staff as info providers and Local Engagement Officers and commissioned community capacity builders/connector e.g. Village and Community agents, Local Area Co-ordinators, Living Well, Supporting People Community Based Support Services (generic and specialist) and Supporting People Older People Services – Community Asset Model</p>	<p>Fully utilise info/ knowledge exchange across wide range of community connectors</p>	<p>Commissioners</p>
<p><b>Identify and promote best practice</b></p>		
<p>Establish Officer Co-ordination group</p>	<p>Enable identification of good practice, sharing of resources and evaluation of success, across organisation. Embed principles of Community Capacity Building in all council activities.</p>	<p>Kath Rees, Lead Commissioner Steve Andrews, Programme Manager</p>
<p>Identify examples of strong, active communities and</p>	<p>Promote good practice, share learning and inspire action</p>	<p>Steve Andrew – Programme</p>

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advertise success stories via web accessed portal.	across communities.	manager Officer Co-ordination Group
<p>Continue to work in partnership to identify and share best practice, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Well Being Board</li> <li>• Community Engagement Network</li> <li>• Gloucestershire Children’s Partnership</li> <li>• Supporting People Partnership</li> <li>• Building Better Lives Partnership</li> <li>• Learning Disability Partnership</li> <li>• Better Care Fund Provider Forum</li> <li>• Armed Forces Community Covenant</li> </ul>	Enable identification of good practice, sharing of resources and evaluation of success, across organisations.	Lead Commissioners
<b>Support Development of Service User Led Organisations and solutions</b>		
<p>Promote and support expansion of service user led organisations to create and deliver local solutions.</p> <p>Continue to support existing service user led organisations and activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community libraries;</li> <li>• carer organisations;</li> <li>• school governors;</li> <li>• Physical Inclusion Network Gloucestershire;</li> <li>• Gloucestershire Voices;</li> <li>• Young Ambassadors;</li> <li>• snow wardens;</li> <li>• flood warden;</li> <li>• grass cutting/handyman service</li> </ul>	Work with community service user led organisations and Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils to support service user involvement in services, promote and expand service user led schemes that innovatively meet local aspirations.	Commissioners LEOs
Use the Building Better Lives Co-production Charter as a guide to developing other co-production charters that meet the individual needs of communities of interest and place.	Staff and stakeholders are clear about how to engage in co-production to support service user led activities and involvements in services.	Steve Andrew – Programme Manager Staff co-ordination group

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<b>Support provision of places for communities to come together</b>		
Audit vacant/under occupied properties	Engage communities and other partners in determining future potential use. Link vacant/under use to potential hubs and/or social enterprise.	Fabian Toner – AMPS
Map community facilities (GCC and non GCC) to establish where shared hubs can be developed.	Encourage and support communities to use/mange local assets.	Fabian Toner - AMPS and commissioners
Promote wider use of existing community facilities- Pubs, shops, schools	Create flexible hubs for specific activities, luncheon clubs, social activities, healthy eating, and intergenerational work.	LEOs Community Based Support Services and Connectors
Develop and promote facilities management service to voluntary and community groups	Offer affordable facilities management service to community groups who own or lease buildings	Rob Barnes - AMPS
<b>Harness and maximise the potential of Council activities</b>		
Provide GCC Councillors with the tools and necessary support to promote Active Communities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ward profiles;</li> <li>• briefings;</li> <li>• case studies; and</li> <li>• officer support.</li> </ul>	Support members to strengthen and expand relationships and level of community activity	Steve Andrew Neil Dixon Officer Co-ordinator Group
Include in all commissioning strategies explicit Active Communities component and that Social Value Benefits are considered in commissioning process	Community capacity building function included in all relevant policy areas and commissioning activities, including contracts to create, harness and instigate community capacity	Lead Commissioners Commercial Services
Record what consideration had been made of the opportunity to create community capacity building when taking decisions.	Undertake regard in all decision making about the opportunities to support community capacity building	All
Explore with a view of creating and implementing a corporate volunteering policy	Council staff are available to support community activities.	Ian Turner – Head of Human Resources
Monitor and evaluate success of current investment in	Inform future commissioning intentions of community capacity	Commissioners

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<p>GCC commissioned community capacity building activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community connectors/navigators.</li> <li>• Supporting People Community Based Support Services (generic and specialist)</li> <li>• Supporting People Older People services – Community asset model</li> <li>• Village and Community Agents</li> <li>• Living Well</li> <li>• Active Together Grants</li> <li>• Healthy Together Grants</li> <li>• Children’s Activity Grant</li> <li>• Community Building Improvement Grants</li> <li>• Highways Local</li> <li>• Community Transport Grants</li> <li>• BME grants</li> <li>• Positive Caring Programme</li> <li>• Growing Great Futures</li> <li>• Parent Champions</li> <li>• Dementia Champions</li> <li>• Community Health Champions</li> <li>• Mental Health First Aid Trainers</li> <li>• Healthy Lifestyle Services (e.g. stop smoking, healthy weight, health improvement delivery, Health Trainers, Making Every Contact Count)</li> <li>• Learning Disabilities Drop ins</li> <li>• BBL challenging behaviour support to families and carers</li> </ul> <p>Share evaluation with partners.</p>	<p>building activities – to reflect local strengths and needs.</p> <p>Identify benefit of grant programmes as vehicle to create community capacity building, to inform future investment.</p>	
<p>Commission adult education programmes to enable community based organisations to develop the capacity necessary to provide learning programmes to meet the needs of their clients</p>	<p>Delivery of programmes aimed at supporting new and existing organisations as well as groups and individuals to become self sustaining in a way that supports society.</p>	<p>Sally Lewis Commissioning Officer</p> <p>Community and Neighbourhood Learning</p>

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		Development
<p>Make available to communities all relevant single and multi-agency training opportunities provided by and for GCC and the wider workforce: e.g. Safeguarding and Human Resources</p>	<p>Ensure community groups and volunteers have the skills and knowledge to operate safely and with confidence.</p>	<p>Service Leads Ian Turner - Head of Human Resources</p>