

Strengthening Communities

Working with individuals, groups and organisations across Essex, through enabling and encouraging people to help themselves and each other, and changing the relationships between and across public private and community sectors, we will create the conditions that will strengthen communities, sustain resilience and improve outcomes, in turn reducing public sector spend and managing whole system resources more effectively.

Shifting expectations, challenging dependency

- People who live in strong, mutually supportive communities generally have better outcomes and quality of life
- The public sector cannot hope to address or provide everything that makes individuals and communities strong
 - It cannot afford to
 - More importantly it isn't right that it should even try
- We need to shift relationships and expectations – so that
 - People, living their lives, are the ones who should have choice, control and responsibility for their lives
 - Public sector plays a contributing role as part of the wider community; creating and supporting the enabling conditions that help people to help themselves and each other

The public sector role?

Public sector organisations can:

1. Recognise and build on what already works well
2. Enable others to link into, enhance or replicate existing activities
3. Encourage and support individuals to act
4. Remove some of the barriers to community-led action

Creating the enabling conditions

Our starting point for achieving stronger communities -

1. Asset based community development
2. Community connectors
3. Targeted volunteering
4. Community-based commissioning

Discussion

- Do you agree this is a reasonable starting point?
- What would you, and the people you represent want to get out of this programme?
- Will you commit time and resources to develop the work further?