

## Belfast Community Planning Consortium

### Big Lottery Fund Contract to deliver a community planning project in N.Ireland

#### Summary of Project Proposals and Project Plan

##### Project Proposal and Objectives

The Belfast Community Planning Consortium (BCPC) aims to carry out a community planning pilot which will:

- Develop a shared understanding of community planning, through testing and modelling community planning processes around the theme of health;
- Deliver tangible outputs and outcomes in the form of a plan to address health inequalities and specific changes to the service plans of key statutory agencies to improve delivery of services on the ground;
- Build the capacity of the voluntary and community sectors to exercise leadership in the community planning process
- Build capacity in local communities and empower communities to engage with and influence the development of community planning;
- Build upon and improve networks and strategic alliances;
- Create a productive relationship between the VCS and the Council's Statutory Transition Committee which builds trust, increases understanding of the role of the VCS in community planning and empowers the VCS to better engage in the process;
- Examine how the city's voluntary and community sectors can be effectively included as partners in the community planning process and examine how the community planning model can support more interagency planning and budget setting by statutory partners and the council at strategic, thematic and local area levels;
- Ensure learning is transferred to the wider development of a community planning framework for the city and regionally.

The objectives of the pilot reflect the requirements of the contract to empower communities to engage with and influence the development of community planning. The learning that we will develop through this pilot will help us evolve an effective model of community planning for Belfast, one that meets the needs of all the key partners with the aim of improving quality of life across the city.

##### Outline project plan

The BCPC has developed an outline project plan designed to deliver the pilot objectives. A summary of the key steps within the project plan is outlined below:

#### 1. Establish Belfast CP Pilot steering group

#### 2. Recruit Project Liaison officer

#### 3. Establish evaluation and monitoring requirements

#### 4. Carry out research

- Capacity scoping exercise describing how ready partners are to engage in community planning
- Technical guidance on best practice in community planning provided to consortium members and other key partners including councillors, provided by Community Places.
- A summary of existing citywide needs analyses (particularly in the field of health).

## **5. Training and capacity building**

- Capacity-building and training on community planning, effective engagement and planning processes for consortium members and other key partners.

## **6. Develop & hold citywide engagement strategic, thematic and local levels**

- Health and well-being is test theme for engagement.
- Confirm agreed principles for engagement
- Confirm arrangements needed by key partners at each level.
- Identify key stakeholders who will take part in engagement at each of the three levels.
- Identify engagement processes and outputs required.
- Identify engagement outputs required in order to contribute to planning cycles at strategic, thematic and service levels.
- Identify how data and priorities from each level will be drawn together and the decision-making process for prioritisation.

## **7. Develop supporting intelligence for CP**

- Council to map existing health and well-being priorities at citywide, thematic and area levels.
- Map existing health and well-being service delivery (both of council and partners).
- Intelligence to contribute to engagement process and to planning decisions at strategic, thematic and local levels.
- Establish links/relationship with the Belfast Health Development Unit.

## **8. Develop statutory relationships**

- Draw on intelligence assessment and agreed thematic strand to develop key relevant statutory partner map (with appropriate people at strategic, thematic and local levels).
- Establish links between the steering group and key statutory partners
- Hold briefings/relationship building.
- Seek their contribution to and commitment to engagement activities (with appropriate people at strategic, thematic and local levels).
- Seek commitment to integrate results in planning cycles.
- Agree monitoring and evaluation approaches.

## **9. Management and integration of engagement information**

- Steering group and key partners to confirm appropriate engagement methodologies for each of the three strands of CP (strategic, thematic & local).
- Key strategic, thematic & local partners confirm engagement timetable/co-ordination.
- Agreement on engagement data collection and management.

## **10. Planning integration**

- Develop linkages to political decision-making within Council
- Confirm how pilot will influence service business planning cycle.
- Confirm how pilot will influence statutory partners' planning cycle.
- Confirm how pilot will influence thematic planning cycle.
- Agree target outcomes and reporting/monitoring processes.

## **11. Communications plan**

- Agree key messages, audiences, channels, etc.
- Methods for on-going contact with partners, feedback, etc.

## **12. Conference**

- Steering group to confirm event management, format, content, etc.
- Steering group to confirm key speakers, workshops etc.
- Conference to provide space for dissemination of learning.