How you can help

These elements are just a starting point for discussion. At this stage no aspect of the model has been finalised. The final model will be influenced by the ideas emerging from the forthcoming seminars, workshops, discussions and wider consultation.

There are also other aspects of the model that need to be considered. For example, at this point we haven't consider the implementation of the model or the sequencing of each element.

In developing the model there are a number of questions we would like people to think about. For example:

- **Are these the right elements?**
- **How could we measure success for each?**
- **What are the implications of the model for organisations in the city— particularly the community and voluntary sectors?**

We will be addressing these questions with individuals from the community and voluntary sectors at a series of workshops in November.

On 14 October we will also be publishing the model on a **Wiki website** where users will be able to edit, add to and comment on the content. You can find out more by visiting the web address below.

More information

You can read more about the model and the Community Planning pilot here:

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communityplanning

Or contact:
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Building a Community Planning model for Belfast

A key aim of the BIG Lottery Belfast Community Planning pilot is to draw on the learning and research gathered during the life of the project to build a model for Community Planning that can be used at other times and in other situations.

While the pilot has focussed on a thematic approach to Community Planning (specifically working with the new Belfast Strategic Partnership on the theme of 'health') it was intended that elements of any model should be replicable in other circumstances.

We are proposing that there nine key elements required for the successful delivery of any project that uses a Community Planning approach. The elements are interdependent and are unlikely to be of equal importance in every circumstance. We briefly describe each of the elements on the next few pages.

Acknowledging the context

This is a recognition that the existing context will have implications for how a community planning approach is developed and applied. Those applying the model need to adapt their approach to best fit with such things as existing statutory obligations, pre-agreed commitments, existing structures or thematic initiatives.

Inclusion and communication

At the heart of community planning is a commitment to meaningful engagement, involving people in all aspects of the approach right from the beginning. An inclusive, participatory approach, that emphasises communication with communities and between partner organisations, is essential to success.

Focussing on outcomes

A commitment to planning that results in tangible change that benefits people and communities. This involves identifying shared, long term aspirational outcomes from the outset and mapping causal relationships between outcomes, interventions to deliver and indicators to measure impact. It also includes a commitment to monitor and evaluate the approach taken.

Civic leadership and ownership

This includes the governance arrangements under which CP must operate (for example, under the Local Government Reform proposals, local authorities in Northern Ireland will have political responsibility for leading on Community Planning). However, this element also addresses wider leadership responsibilities and commitments by organisations (statutory & CVS) and communities to make CP work.

Evidence and knowledge

Both the quantitative data relevant to making decisions around assets, priorities and commitments, and the rich qualitative information that can be drawn from personal experience, engagement, research and learning. It is not only the collection, storing and sharing of such evidence but also the ability to use it appropriately in making decisions.

Assets and building capacity

Recognising that organisations (including statutory and CVS), communities and individuals have strengths, talents, skills and resources that can contribute to success. It is also recognition that there will be some gaps in which there is a need for organisational, community and individual development. Building capacity will enable all stakeholders to participate to their full potential in the community planning process

Resourcing

With no additional funding available for CP there will need to be a flexible use and sharing of budgets towards agreed joint outcomes. Resources should be committed and reflected in individual stakeholder plans. Support for the CP processes including engagement and capacity building will require resourcing.

Effective partnership working

A successful CP model may or may not include an official partnership structure (such as the Belfast Strategic Partnership) but it's likely that in the current environment, any model will require a variety of formal and informal partnership arrangements that can work well at different levels (strategic, thematic, local).

Integrating services

Most effective and efficient solutions will require interventions and services that are delivered by a variety of statutory, community and voluntary organisations. Key to successful community planning is ensuring that these are planned, designed, delivered and evaluated in an environment that is conducive to shared approaches.