

**Empowering and  
Engaging Citizens in our  
Communities:  
Making it happen**

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# Empowerment and sharing power

- Case for CE established
- Govt and Regional high priority
- Different areas; different stages of empowerment development
- Need tailored empowerment plans
- Residents and young residents need empowerment support
- Staff need training and support to share and let go of power



# Steps to increase empowerment

- Need to 'grow' new community leaders/champions
- Provide training and mentors to support these champions
- Facilitate networks so new champions can support one another
- Empowerment champions can encourage and empower other residents and young residents- become multipliers



# Training and Development

- Builds residents' confidence and skills
- Courses in leadership, neighbourhood working, conflict resolution, PB needed
- More volunteering opps and neighbourhood apprenticeships lead to empowerment
- Volunteering route into work- supports Govt priority tackling worklessness
- Need a pool of mentors to support new and existing activists- avoid burn out and disillusionment



# Creating opportunities for residents to take the lead

- Need to ensure residents involved in all key steering groups/consultations
- Create opportunities to showcase effective empowerment locally/regionally
- Invest in networks/action learning groups, events to share what works
- Encourage residents to become champions, elected members, school governors, magistrates and to set up action groups
- Highlight resident led successes



# Training and supporting your front line staff

- Staff need to adapt to changing roles and new challenges
- Need to understand Govt and Region's CE priorities
- Need new skills to work in partnership in neighbourhoods with residents and other agencies especially around budgets
- Staff need access to good practice, innovation and CE case studies
- 'Seeing is Believing'- value of study visits



# Training and support for elected members

- To understand new CE targets and statutory duties
- Need support to take on enhanced leadership role
- Skills development to share power more with residents
- Need access to support, fellow members via networks & site visits



# Measuring and reporting on Community Empowerment

- Need training for all partnership members- designing CE Framework to measure, monitor and report outcomes
- Baselines need to be established against which to monitor change
- Collect evidence for CAA inspections
- Got to prove empowerment happening leading to improvements on the ground- need measurement tools



# Highlighting Community Empowerment Successes

- Need a CE Comms Strategy
- Articles in local press and LA, HA, Police, Fire, Health etc newsletters/Bulletins
- Encourage residents to speak/write about successes
- Residents' areas in Libraries/community centres
- Residents' contributions to partners' websites and interactive fora
- Document and share successful CE case studies with REC,LIFT,GO,CE Champion LAs in region



# Your Regional Training and Resource Centre can help

- Track record of successful delivery in neighbourhoods
- 95%+ trainee satisfaction level
- Can develop bespoke training tailored to individual needs
- Experienced network facilitation, study visits, events management, evaluation and coaching



# Your Resource Centre is part of a National Alliance

- 6 Centres cover all regions of England
- Shared website and publications see [www.neighbourhoodalliance.org.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodalliance.org.uk)
- Centres organise national events to supplement regional activities
- Pooled resources for new courses/service development gives added value for customers
- Feed good practice on the ground back to CLG and all regions
- Case studies and neighbourhoods' knowledge shared nationally



# Community Empowerment Offer for South West

- Training/awareness raising for elected members
- Partnership working
- Organisational development
- Achieving Gershon savings
- Neighbourhood warden development and evaluation
- Neighbourhood charters/agreements development



# Community Empowerment Package

- Training and support to empower residents
- Awareness raising and training for councillors
- CE awareness raising for front line staff
- Measuring and reporting on CE
- Participatory evaluation training for residents
- CE events, study visits and neighbourhood networks
- Cohesion training and support
- Training and supporting a pool of CE mentors



# Community Empowerment is an issue for all agencies

- CE requirement for Police, Health, Fire Schools, Youth Service, Extended Schools as well LAs
- All agencies need to foster leadership amongst residents and young residents
- HAs need to support tenant empowerment
- CAA will assess partnership CE not individual services



# A Final thought.....

**Tell me and I'll  
forget**

**Show me and I may  
remember**

**Involve me and I'll  
understand**

