

Building Sustainable Communities Community Development Learning Programme

INFORMATION SHEET

Introduction

COGS was commissioned by the Academy of Sustainable Communities (ASC) last year to develop and pilot the learning programme: Building Sustainable Communities. Following the successful pilot and evaluation, ASC have asked COGS to deliver 4 more learning programmes in 2008, (one in each of the North West, South West, East Midlands, and East regions).

The programme is being delivered in partnership with the Regional Centres of Excellence in those regions–

Creating Excellence (SW) www.creatingexcellence.org.uk

RENEW (NW) www.renew.co.uk

Regeneration East Midlands (EM) www.regenerationem.co.uk

Inspire East (E) www.inspire-east.org.uk

ASC says

'Most people want to live in a place where they know their neighbours and feel safe. A place with good homes, local shops, lots of jobs and opportunities for young people to get a good education'.

They define a sustainable community as needing

'..... good governance, public participation, partnership working, excellent public services and civic pride. They are about learning from the mistakes of the past and linking social, economic and environmental programmes.'

The course focus will be this holistic approach to sustainable communities, not just sustainable development.

The programme

The programme is targeted at paid workers carrying out community development and capacity building support to groups - though not just those who have community development as part of their job description / title. We are aiming to recruit people from across a range of sectors and perspectives including health, housing, transport, regeneration, neighbourhood management etc whose role includes support to community groups, and those managing community workers and projects.

The learning programme aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of what makes for sustainable communities and will focus on the role of community development workers and their relationship to others working at community level. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the following questions

- What factors contribute to communities becoming more sustainable?
- What is the contribution of community development?
- How does it sit alongside other practice / development in communities?
- How can your practice be more effective, and how do you know?

Practice day

A key part of the course is a practice project to be completed between days 2 and 3 of the course. Participants will be expected to allocate a minimum of 1 day (equivalent) to this work.

Developing course facilitators

In order to embed skills and knowledge to help run the course in the future, 3 places on each course will be 'earmarked' for participants from each region who already have a level of training skills and are interested in becoming course facilitators. An additional free day's training for these participants will be held on March 18th 2008 in London

Selection process

We anticipate a large number of applications, and participants will be selected to:

- Ensure they meet minimum requirements of experience and role
- Ensure a good geographical spread from the region
- Ensure a good mix of people working in different contexts
- Share places out if more than one person applies from the same organisation.

Costs and dates

Course costs are different in each region and are payable to the Regional Centre of Excellence. See leaflet for details of costs and dates for each course.

Contact for further information

Programme details and application forms available from **COGS**

Tel 0114 2554747 Email mail@cogs.solis.co.uk

or can be downloaded from www.cogs.uk.net

Aims of Learning Programme

To raise awareness of sustainable communities amongst community development practitioners in order to ensure that they are better able to engage local communities in place making.

Learning outcomes for participants

- Understand the concept of and holistic nature of sustainable communities
- Understand your role and how it contributes to sustainable communities
- Identify and apply generic skills in your work
- Identify any further learning needed to carry out their work effectively in other areas
- Understand how to use the Egan Wheel for both analysis and action planning towards sustainable communities
- Understand the potential and issues involved in working with between core sustainable communities occupations and community development work with residents and communities
- Identify sustainable mechanisms for translating policy and initiatives into accessible and usable information for communities
- Disseminate your knowledge to local residents and other partners to enable greater participation and responsibility in decision making for their area and further raise awareness of sustainable communities