



***The Community Regeneration Fund:  
Support for Community Planning Partnerships  
from the Scottish Centre for Regeneration***

**November 2005**

# **THE COMMUNITY REGENERATION FUND: SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS FROM THE SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR REGENERATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Scottish Centre for Regeneration (SCR) is part of Communities Scotland. It supports people involved in community regeneration to improve their effectiveness through building their skills and expertise in regeneration. It does this through:

- identifying what works and what doesn't work and supporting people and organisations involved in community regeneration to put this into practice.
- Identifying new approaches to community regeneration and supporting people involved in community regeneration to implement these
- supporting people involved in community regeneration to identify the skills needed and help them to obtain these.

The SCR aims to work with those involved in community regeneration, including Community Planning Partnerships, to provide the tools and support required to improve practice. In doing this we aim to:

- maintain an outward focus
- be inclusive
- retain a practical focus
- extract lessons learned
- remain flexible
- maintain a commitment to mainstreaming equal opportunities

One of the SCR's key roles is to support Community Planning Partnerships to implement the Community Regeneration Fund. It does this through working with CPPs to develop and put in place tools that will help CPPs to improve their effectiveness and, subsequently, the impact that the CRF will have on communities.

This document outlines the support that the SCR provides for Community Planning Partnerships. It sets out the support provided by the SCR to CPPs which help to improve performance through:

- partnership working
- developing skills
- community engagement
- mainstreaming equality
- sustainable development

It also outlines support for improving practice aimed at achieving the national priorities for community regeneration which are set out in "Community Regeneration Fund: Guidance on Regeneration Outcome Agreements". These are:

- building strong, safe and attractive communities
- getting people back into work

- improving health
- raising educational attainment
- engaging young people

This document will be updated regularly and copies will be circulated to CPPs so that they are aware of the new tools and support available.

The SCR also has resources available to support CPPs to use these tools and would be happy to discuss this with CPPs. The SCR can also deal with specific requests for examples of good practice. If you would like to discuss working with the SCR please contact us.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Partnership working amongst CPP partners is necessary for the CRF to be effective. This involves making existing key strategies, mainstream services, expenditure and opportunities, such as large scale public and private capital investment, fit with strategic regeneration objectives.

Local regeneration has to take place within the wider strategic context of community planning and mainstream services need to work together effectively for disadvantaged communities. These requirements are also about demonstrating that the CPP and individual partners have thought carefully about how existing strategies and services fit with the national priorities for community regeneration and their associated outcomes.

The SCR has a number of tools and supports aimed at helping CPPs to improve partnership working and to achieve effective regeneration outcomes. These include:

- a **How to Guide to Partnership Working** which brings together a range of toolkits which help to improve partners working.
- a **How to Guide to Regeneration Outcomes** which is currently in development and which will be online in early 2006.
- a number of **Learning Points** which pull out lessons learned from Social Inclusion Partnership programme for CPPs. These Learning Points also provide links to case studies of successful approaches to regeneration sourced through the evaluation of the Social Inclusion Partnership programme and which are particularly relevant to CPPs. These are also contained on the SCR's database of case studies called **Project Profiles**. Learning Points include:
  - Learning Point 7: **Successful Regeneration: A Practitioners' View**
  - Learning Point 15: **Community Planning Partnerships: Leadership and Governance**
  - Learning Point 16: **Community Planning Partnerships: Partnership Working**
  - Learning Point 17: **Community Planning Partnerships: Learning From Experience**
  - Learning Point 18: **Community Planning Partnerships: Are They Closing the Gap?**
- **Learning Materials for Community Planning Partnerships** which support CPPs to undertake a self assessment and to develop an action plan to improve performance on community engagement, leadership and governance, partnership working, in developing the skills of staff.

- **Promoting Excellence in Scotland's Communities**, a guide which outlines a range of performance improvement techniques which can be used by regeneration organisations, including CPPs.

## SKILLS

It is essential that those working in community regeneration in CPPs have the right skills to implement the Community Regeneration Fund. Too often however, this is a side of community regeneration which is not given priority. To help with the SCR:

- has published a **Skills Framework** which sets out skills needed for effective regeneration and **Learning in Regeneration** which is a pack which supports people and organisations to assess their skills needs and identify ways of addressing these.
- is currently developing new learning programmes which will be able to help CPPs to learn from others. These will aim to allow people and organisations to share learning, experience and expertise.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Effective and genuine community engagement is at the heart of community planning and there must be evidence of this in the ROA. We are looking for CPPs to excel at engaging effectively with the disadvantaged communities they serve. The development and implementation of an ROA is an opportunity to involve stakeholders, such as environmental agencies, who can make a useful contribution but may not have been involved in previous regeneration activities.

The SCR has a number of tools and supports to help CPPs to address issues in community engagement. These include:

- a **How to Guide to Community Engagement**, which provides examples of the range of methods available to Sharing information; Opinion gathering; Capacity building; Participation and partnership; and ensuring equal opportunities in community engagement.
- **Learning Points** which set out lessons learned from events and programmes. Those looking at community engagement techniques are:
  - Learning Point 1: **Making It Meaningful: Involving Communities in Community Planning**
  - Learning Point 2: **Appreciative Inquiry: Asking the Right Questions**
  - Learning Point 6: **Asset Based Community Development: Making the Most of a Community's Strengths**
  - Learning Point 12: **Appreciative Inquiry: From Vision to Action**
  - Learning Point 13: **Community Planning Partnerships: Engaging Communities**
  - Learning Point 19: **Community Planning: The Role of National Voluntary Organisations**

## **MAINSTREAMING EQUALITY**

The Scottish Executive is committed to ensuring that equality is mainstreamed into all areas of its work. CPPs should ensure that they eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good race relations (Race Relations Amendment Act 2000). The ROA should therefore state how equalities principles are being addressed in the development and delivery of the ROA. This could include, for example, outlining the particular steps being taken to ensure equalities groups are engaged in the development of the ROA, considering the differential impact of services and projects on different groups, and/or defining sub-outcomes for particular groups within an overall area or thematic approach.

To support CPPs to mainstream equality the SCR has:

- published Learning Point 8 on **Equalities in Community Regeneration: Making It Mainstream**
- included guidance on engaging with specific groups and ensuring equality in its **How to Guide to Community Engagement**
- published a number of case studies in mainstreaming equality in community regeneration as part of its **Project Profiles**.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CPPs should seek to achieve sustainable regeneration outcomes. This means putting local people at the heart of the regeneration process, improving the quality of the local environment, and taking an integrated and long-term approach that recognises that neighbourhood problems have linked social, economic and environmental causes. Scottish Ministers have called for a Scotland that puts environmental concerns at the heart of public policy and secures environmental justice for all of Scotland's communities. The development and implementation of ROAs should reflect these concerns and provide an opportunity to improve the coherence and impact of greenspace and environmental activities which contribute to regeneration outcomes.

To support this the SCR:

- is holding a **Practice event** on "Integrating Sustainable Development into Community Regeneration" on 2 March 2006. A Learning Point will also be published on this.
- has published a Learning Point 3: **Creating Places Where People Want to Live, Work and Visit**
- has published a number of **Project Profiles** setting out case studies on sustainable development issues under the heading of Environmental projects.

## THEMATIC ISSUES

### BUILDING STRONG, SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES

To support this the SCR has:

- published a number of **Learning Points** on issues around sustainable development and community regeneration. These are:
  - Learning Point 3: **Creating Places Where People Want to Live, Work and Visit**
  - Learning Point 4: **Creating Strong Communities in the North East of Scotland**
  - Learning Point 10: **Wider Role: Providing More Than Housing**
- published a number of **Project Profiles** under the headings of anti-social behaviour, community care, community safety and physical regeneration.
- held a Masterclass on 14 October on **Masterplanning for Communities**. A **Learning Point** will be published on this.

### GETTING PEOPLE BACK INTO WORK

To support this the SCR has:

- published Learning Point 5: **A Businesslike Approach to Supporting the Social Economy**
- published a number of **Project Profiles** under the headings of anti-poverty, community economic development and employability.

### IMPROVING HEALTH

To support this the SCR:

- is holding a Practice Event on 8 December on **Creating Healthier Communities**. A **Learning Point** will be published following this event.
- has published a number of **Project Profiles** under the heading of health improvement.

## **RAISING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

To support this the SCR:

- held a Practice Event on 5 October on **Connecting Schools, Young People and Community Regeneration**. A **Learning Point** will be published on this.

## **ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE**

To support this the SCR:

- has included guidance on engaging with young people in its **How to Guide to Community Engagement**
- has published a number of **Project Profiles** under the headings of family support and community engagement.

## CONTACT

If you would like to keep in regular touch with SCR and with issues in community regeneration you can subscribe to the SCR's monthly **e-bulletin** service.

This document will be updated and circulated regularly among CPPs. We are keen to ensure that the tools that we provide are relevant, useful, easy to use and effective. If you have any thoughts on future tools or issues that could be developed to help CPPs to implement the Community Regeneration Fund then please contact us.

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