

<b>Case study 1:</b> Leicestershire – Measuring & Enhancing Social Capital
<b>Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Leicestershire CVS Community Partnership (CCP)</li><li>– Leicestershire County Council</li><li>– Leicestershire Together (LSP)</li><li>– De Montfort University</li></ul>
<b>Detail:</b> As a result of a strong countywide partnership of CVSs & successful partnership working with the local authority to deliver SRB the VCS was nominated to lead on the ‘Stronger Communities’ theme in Leicestershire County Council’s Local Area Agreement. This has resulted in the development of a participative Social Capital survey designed, delivered & monitored by local people resulting in the development of Action Plans for change
<b>Delivery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identified outcomes: empowering local people to have a greater voice &amp; influence local decision making; increased sense of community spirit; equality of access to services; &amp;, thriving market town &amp; village centres.</li><li>• A board has been established to oversee delivery involving range of VCS &amp; local community representatives based on a sub group of the VCS Infrastructure Board</li><li>• Local people trained to carry out research &amp; supported to develop the skills to identify initiatives which regenerate their neighbourhoods &amp; enabling them to become trainers in their own community</li><li>• Local Development Groups (LDGs) have been established with to analyse data gathered through Social Capital survey &amp; with devolved responsibility for decision making on funding</li><li>• LDGs supported locally by outreach staff employed by the local CVS</li><li>• Support for communication, monitoring &amp; supporting strategic activity across the county provided centrally through CPP</li></ul>
<b>Embedding &amp; measuring social capital:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Methodology based on an approach to practice, training &amp; research which starts from issues, ideas &amp; understanding of local residents, rather than from a professional definition of their needs</li><li>• Local people responsible for developing their own understanding of Social Capital &amp; what it means in their communities</li><li>• Term used sparingly with discussions based on concepts such as community spirit, participation &amp; trust</li><li>• When measuring &amp; understanding Social Capital in communities quantitative surveys alone only provide a partial picture &amp; it is important to provide local people with the opportunity to write their own stories</li></ul>
<b>Outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ½ time post focusing on Social Capital in place in all 7 CVSs in the County</li><li>• Growing consensus across delivery partners &amp; broader areas of local authority activity that Social Capital is adding significant value</li><li>• The concept of Social Capital supporting practitioners to develop new ways of thinking regarding how they engage with local people</li></ul>

<b>Case study 2:</b> The East Midlands CATALYST Programme
<b>Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– CEFET (Co-ordinating European Funding for the East Midlands Third Sector)</li><li>– emda (East Midlands Development Agency)</li><li>– East Midlands Regional Assembly</li><li>– 5 Community Foundations in the region</li><li>– Local Authorities</li><li>– Connexions</li></ul>
<b>Detail:</b> The programme is a region wide funding scheme delivering Objective 3 ESF Global Grants to build local Social Capital. It has been built on the success of previous ESF Objective 3 programmes resulting in the publication of the East Midlands 'Community Empowerment Strategy' & is a strategic approach based on pilot models delivered throughout Europe.
<b>Delivery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support provided across a range of different areas including rural, urban, outlying estates, coalfield &amp; coastal</li><li>• Decision making devolved to Community Selection Panels made up of community representatives</li><li>• Supporting projects which contribute to community spirit &amp; participation both in their design &amp; delivery &amp; engage with those most excluded from mainstream provision</li><li>• Local fieldworkers employed by strategic VCS organisations &amp; hosted by grass roots community organisations</li><li>• Central support for communication, monitoring &amp; financial accountability provided through CEFET</li></ul>
<b>Embedding &amp; measuring social capital:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based on EU concept of Local Social focusing on the value of social cohesion, community spirit, quality of life, self-activity &amp; community &amp; self confidence with a particular emphasis on local solutions to local need.</li><li>• Strong debate at a local level within communities to understand Social Capital in the context of their own area</li><li>• Local communities defining their own measures of success for all projects</li></ul>
<b>Outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive impact on supporting local people to develop &amp; take ownership over their own solutions to local needs.</li><li>• Evidence that networking between local groups has increased &amp; there is now better use of local facilities.</li><li>• Programme has reached people who are most excluded within communities</li><li>• Establishment of two other funds in the region based on aspects of the CATALYST model</li></ul>

<b>Case study 3:</b> Argyll & Bute Community Learning Development Partnership
<b>Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Argyll &amp; Bute Council</li><li>– Communities Scotland</li><li>– Scottish Executive/Learning Connections</li></ul>
<b>Detail:</b> CLD Partnerships exist in every local authority in Scotland & their role is to develop initiatives to build capacity & skills in local communities. Their activity is driven by & measured against guidance published by the Scottish Executive which embeds Social Capital in learning & development within communities.
<b>Delivery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnership plays an essential role in achieving priorities of improving public services &amp; promoting community regeneration, social inclusion, life long learning &amp; active citizenship.</li><li>• Activity covers a wide range of areas of practice including youth work, adult-learning services, health promotion, environmental protection, formal education, culture &amp; leisure, economic development, social welfare &amp; regeneration</li><li>• Due to the nature of the area there are limited strategic VCS bodies so main organisations involved &amp; funding partners are public sector agencies</li><li>• Area Development Groups made up of local people are supported financially &amp; with outreach staff &amp; have devolved responsibility for decision making funding for community development in their area</li><li>• A formally constituted Community Representatives Forum, resourced by the local authority, provides community representatives with an equal strategic level voice in the partnership</li></ul>
<b>Embedding &amp; measuring social capital:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong debate at a local level with a flexible approach to defining Social Capital with the term used sparingly</li><li>• Extensive work with local groups to build their confidence in critical self evaluation &amp; understanding their impact on the local community particularly in relation to how inclusive they are &amp; how much they involve local people in the management of their organisation &amp; development &amp; delivery of projects.</li><li>• Strong use of qualitative measurement based on Scottish Executive indicators</li><li>• Focus on gathering data through one-one questionnaires, interviews &amp; focus groups with staff, local people &amp; project beneficiaries</li></ul>
<b>Outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scottish Executive inspection of CLD Partnership in Dunoon area of Argyll &amp; Bute achieving exceptionally positive results</li><li>• VCS groups have confidence in their capacity to influence decision making with strong communication networks &amp; sharing of issues which impact on the local community</li><li>• Community representatives were seen to be able to effectively participate as equals &amp; have a strong sense of ownership of changes &amp; improvements in local services &amp; facilities</li></ul>