

A Guide to Frameworks and Tools

for

Community Involvement Participation Capacity Building & Development

Produced by

COGS

for the South Yorkshire Coalfield Partnership
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Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Why do we need a guide?

This guide has been produced by COGS, commissioned by Rotherham MBC on behalf of the South Yorkshire Coalfield Partnership, for use by community leaders, community development practitioners and staff of public and voluntary organisations. Its purpose is to increase awareness and understanding of some of the various frameworks and tools that have been developed over recent years to inform the planning and evaluation of community development and related work carried out with and by communities.

There are now a growing number of useful frameworks and toolkits available - reflecting a range of approaches to analysing different areas of community development activity. Whilst this has been a very positive development it has left some people confused about where to start and which framework to use. This guide aims to help identify the framework(s) and tool(s) that most appropriately fit your context and purpose. It explains some of the frameworks and tools in current useage at the time of writing (February 2003). Readers should be aware that it is not exhaustive and that further frameworks and tools will inevitably be developed that may also need to considered.

The guide includes:

- ♣ An introduction to terminology and the use of frameworks and tools
- ♣ An introduction to six frameworks and tools:
 - Achieving Better Community Development (ABCD)
 - Active Partners
 - South Yorkshire Objective 1 Community Economic Development Framework
 - Assessing Community Strengths
 - Auditing Community Participation
 - Audit Commission Community Involvement Indicators
- ♣ Guidance on selecting and applying frameworks
- ♣ A listing of useful reference materials and contacts

It is important to stress that the frameworks and tools introduced in this guide have been developed as an aid to planning and evaluation. They provide structures and tools for thinking and discussion that you should feel free to adapt and develop.

What are we talking about?

The frameworks and tools explained in this guide have each been developed for specific purposes related to work with communities. A useful starting point for understanding the connections and distinctions between these purposes is to consider the distinctions between the terms 'community development', 'community involvement', 'community participation' and 'community capacity building'. The following definitions are taken from the Strategic Development Framework for Community Development produced by the Standing Conference for Community Development (SCCD).

Community Development

Community development is about building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about changing power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives. Community workers support individuals, groups and organisations in this process on the basis of the following values and commitments:

Values

Social Justice – enabling people to claim their human rights, meet their needs and have greater control over the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Participation – facilitating democratic involvement by people in the issues that affect their lives based on full citizenship, autonomy, and shared power, skills, knowledge and experience.

Equality – challenging the attitudes of individuals, and the practices of institutions and society, which discriminate against and marginalise people.

Learning – recognising the skills, knowledge and expertise that people contribute and develop by taking action to tackle social, economic, political and environmental problems.

Co-operation – working together to identify and implement action, based on mutual respect of diverse cultures and contributions.

Commitments

Challenging discrimination and oppressive practices within organisations, institutions and communities.

Developing practice and policy that protects the environment.

Encouraging networking and connections between communities and organisations.

Ensuring access and choice for all groups and individuals within society. Influencing policy and programmes from the perspective of communities.

Prioritising the issues of concern to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

Promoting social change that is long-term and sustainable.

Reversing inequality and the imbalance of power relationships in society.

Supporting community led collective action.

Community involvement

Community involvement is about involvement in community activities in a variety of different ways. Community involvement often starts with agendas and programmes that originate outside the community.

Community participation

This is about enabling people to become active partners in the regeneration of communities by contributing and sharing in the decisions that affect their lives.

Participation should enable people to have a degree of power and control in the processes with which they are involved.

Community capacity building

Capacity building supports individuals, groups and organisations to enable them to play a part in the regeneration and development of communities. It is about building skills and competencies and is increasingly being used amongst policy makers and managers to increase their understanding of communities.

These definitions help to clarify and illustrate how community involvement, community participation and community capacity building are all important elements of the community development process.

How do we use frameworks and tools?

The above definitions help us begin to clarify what we mean when we talk about community development, community involvement etc. To really understand what we are doing, we need to 'unpack' these definitions and think about what they mean to us, in the specific context in which we are working. The frameworks introduced in this guide provide examples of models and approaches that have been developed to help this 'unpacking' process.

3 key principles that need to be borne in mind in selecting and applying any of frameworks and tools now available.

1. Recognising that most frameworks are developed to help provide a starting point for structured thinking and discussion and that you may need to adapt and change them to suit your purpose and context.
2. Being clear about your purpose and selecting the framework(s) that most closely fit that purpose.
3. Developing creative participatory processes for involving your 'stakeholders' in using existing frameworks and tools to develop your own collectively owned framework/strategy/evaluation plan etc.

An Introduction to Six Frameworks and Tools

In this section we outline six frameworks and tools. This is followed by a more detailed description of each and a summary table of key uses.

Achieving Better Community Development (ABCD):

A framework for understanding, planning and evaluating *community development*. It was originally developed in 1996 by the Scottish Community Development Centre on behalf of the DHSS in Northern Ireland, to monitor and evaluate community development projects, policies and programmes. It was subsequently 'rolled out' through a series of training courses across the UK and further developed into what is now ABCD. The Community Development Foundation (CDF) now takes the lead in providing ABCD training courses and publications in England.

Active Partners:

A set of 12 benchmarks, key considerations and indicators of *community participation* in regeneration. Active Partners was commissioned by Yorkshire Forward and developed by COGS with the help of people living in regeneration communities in Yorkshire, including communities from coalfield communities in Wakefield and the Dearne Valley, in 1999/2000. The benchmarks provide a framework to inform the development and review of community participation strategies. They were initially designed for use by SRB partnerships but are now used in a wider range of settings including Neighbourhood Renewal programmes and health initiatives. There is now an Active Partners Unit based at the Regional Forum whose role is to support application of the benchmarks.

Auditing Community Participation:

A handbook of checklists and appraisal exercises for assessing the level of *community involvement and participation* in regeneration partnerships. It was written by Danny Burns and Marilyn Taylor and published by Policy Press on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2000.

South Yorkshire Objective One Community Economic Development (CED) Framework:

A framework for assessing a baseline and measuring the progression of *developing local communities*. It was developed by COGS in 2000 to enable South Yorkshire Objective One Priority 4 Driver Partnership to appropriately target European funding streams and to enable communities to decide upon their future development and access relevant funding.

Assessing Community Strengths:

A practical handbook for planning *capacity building*, based upon adaptations of both the ABCD and CED frameworks above. It provides detailed guidelines for carrying out a 'community strengths' survey, a subsequent assessment process to find out about the strengths and needs of community organisations and the agencies that support them, and action steps for a development strategy. The survey and assessment process was developed and piloted in a New Deal for Communities area in Bradford in 2000. Financial support from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation enabled Steve Skinner (Bradford Council) and Mandy Wilson (COGS) to write up their work. Assessing Community Strengths was published by CDF (2002).

Local Performance Community Involvement Indicators:

A set of indicators for *community involvement* developed by the Audit Commission in 2001/02 following consultation with a range of organisations from the voluntary and community sectors, academia and local and central government. This set of indicators is included in the library of Local Performance Indicators that is jointly run by the Audit Commission and the Improvement and Development Agency. It is intended that local authorities and other public sector agencies, local strategic partnerships and community and voluntary organisations will use the indicators.

Achieving Better Community Development (ABCD)

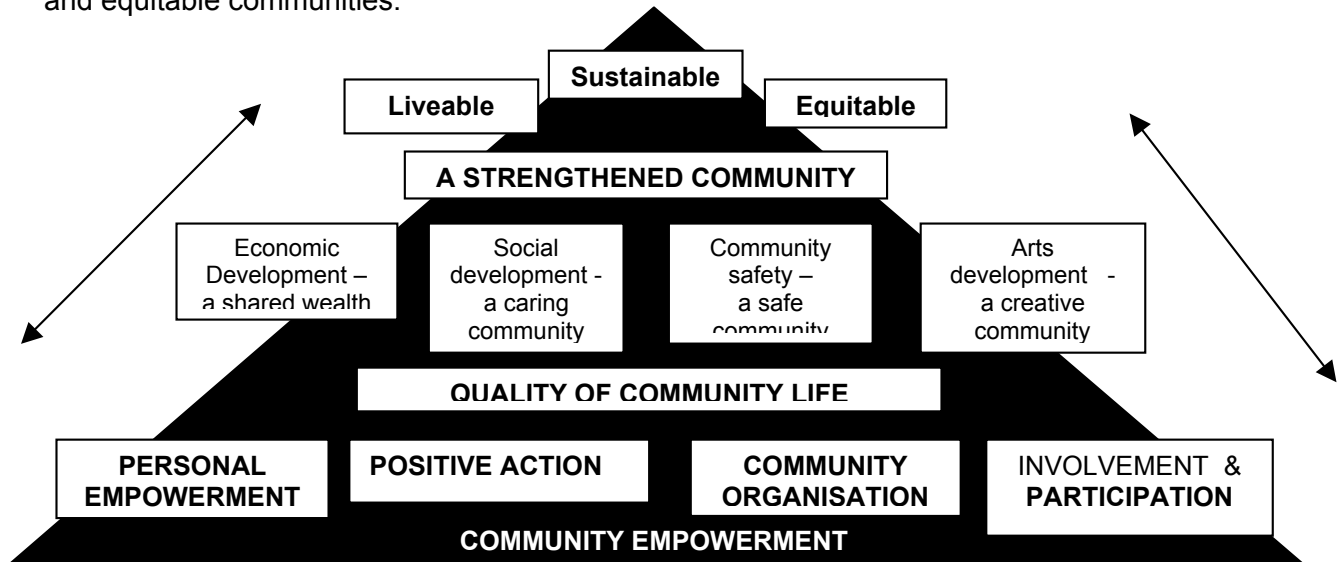
Key purpose – a framework for planning and evaluating community development activity.

ABCD provides a framework for understanding, planning and evaluating community development. It identifies 2 core purposes of community development; 'community empowerment' and 'an improved quality of life'.

Community empowerment is seen to be crucial to all community development activity and is defined as:

- ♣ **Personal empowerment;** processes through which individuals and groups gain knowledge, skill and confidence to take action on matters that concern them. E.g. knowledge and skills developed by people through involvement in community activity.
- ♣ **Positive action;** processes and practice related to equal opportunities, social justice, social inclusion and anti-discriminatory practice. E.g. extent to which minority group members participate in community groups and their activities.
- ♣ **Community organisation;** the development of the range and effectiveness of community based groups and their relationships with each other and the outside world. E.g. ways in which community organisations are run and network with each other.
- ♣ **Participation and involvement;** the opportunities provided to encourage and enable communities to interact with other agencies to achieve change. E.g. the extent to which services are managed and delivered with direct community involvement.

Quality of life relates to the contexts through which change takes place and the longer-term outcomes of the community development process – the development of sustainable, liveable and equitable communities.



Application

This framework states that community development outcomes can only be achieved if the four community empowerment processes are in place and its application is therefore tailored specifically to community development rather than to more general community involvement initiatives. However, as ABCD has evolved it has become clear that it has a wider application than its original purpose of monitoring and evaluation. For example it has been used in:

- needs assessment and planning of community development initiatives
- training local authority community development staff
- appraisal and supervision of community development staff

This framework has been used extensively in local authority community development departments and in health initiatives that have a community development focus.

Active Partners

Key purpose – a framework for developing community participation strategies and reviewing progress.

'Active Partners' provides a framework that can be used by regeneration (and other) partnerships and projects to develop an understanding of community participation and develop effective strategies. The framework is based upon four criteria for community participation:

Influence; how partnerships involve communities in the 'shaping' of regeneration plans/activities and in all decision-making.

Inclusivity; how partnerships ensure all groups and interests in the community can participate, and the ways in which inequality is addressed.

Communication; how partnerships develop effective ways of sharing information with communities and clear procedures that maximise community participation.

Capacity; how partnerships provide the resources required by communities to participate and support both local people and those from partner agencies to develop their understanding, knowledge and skills.

Each theme is further broken down into a number of aims to provide 12 benchmarks. These benchmarks describe what partnerships and projects should be working towards.

<p style="text-align: center;">Influence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The community is recognised and valued as an equal partner at all stages of the process. 2. There is meaningful community representation on all decision-making bodies from initiation. 3. All community members have the opportunity to participate. 4. Communities have access to and control over resources. 5. Evaluation of regeneration partnerships incorporates a community agenda. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Inclusivity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The diversity of local communities and interests are reflected at all levels of the regeneration process. 2. Equal opportunities policies are in place and implemented. 3. Unpaid workers/volunteer activists are valued.
<p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A two-way information strategy is developed and implemented. 2. Programme and project procedures are clear and accessible. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities are resourced to participate. 2. Understanding, knowledge and skills are developed to support partnership working.

Suggested questions for discussion (called 'key considerations') are provided for each benchmark. For example, for the benchmark "*There is meaningful community representation on all decision making bodies*", the key considerations are "*How are communities represented on decision making groups?*" and "*How are decision-making processes enabling communities to be heard and to influence?*" These questions help to relate the benchmarks to your own practice and to begin to identify your current position and possible future action. 'Active Partners' also contains suggestions and examples of practice for each of the benchmarks as well as a listing of possible indicators that could be used to measure and assess progress.

Active Partners was originally developed for use by partnerships involved in managing and delivering SRB Schemes funded through Yorkshire Forward. Alongside the main document, two sets of guidelines - one for partnerships and one for communities - have been published. These contain a step-by-step guide to implementing Active Partners and examples of tried and tested workshop exercises.

Applications

The most effective use of the benchmarks has been in developing community participation strategies and action plans with a range of stakeholders and then regular review on progress. A project to assess the extent of application of Active Partners (see bibliography) identified the following uses:

- Partnership development
- Strategic planning
- Assessment and measuring progress
- Capacity building
- Promoting community participation to other partners
- Linking the local with the strategic
- Designing new projects

“A day was held for all agencies (private, public, voluntary) to understand Active Partners - this helped to break down barriers and improve understanding;

“... helps you to sit back and re-focus.”

“Active Partners would be a useful outline for a training course for people from different council departments to help them to understand community participation”.

Active Partners is used by a whole range of regeneration partnerships e.g. New Deal for Communities, PACT Boards and Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders, and has been adapted and selectively used by organisations working in other contexts such as Community Empowerment Fund Networks and Health Action Zones (HAZ). For example in Bradford, the “Well Connected” tool developed by Bradford Health Action Zone and Building Communities Partnership is closely based on Active Partners but is more an organisational development tool that encourages a detailed self-assessment of community involvement.

Auditing Community Participation

Key purpose – provides practical ideas for checking the extent of community participation

These Audit Tools provide a set of tools and participatory exercises that can be used to initiate and inform dialogue around the following questions.

The history and pattern of participation

What is the range and level of community activity?

What communities are there within the localities covered by the partnership?

What local barriers are there to participation?

The quality of participation strategies adopted by partners and partnerships

Who or what has determined the rules of the partnership?

What is the balance of power within the partnership?

Where in the process are communities involved?

How much influence and control do communities have?

What investment is made in developing and sustaining community participation?

How strong is the leadership within partnerships and partner organisations?

Does the community participation strategy allow for a variety of 'ways in'?

The capacity within partner organisations to support community participation

Can decisions be taken at a neighbourhood level?

Do decision-making structures allow for local diversity?

Are services joined up?

Are service structures compatible with community participation?

The capacity within communities to participate effectively

How accessible are local meetings?

Are community groups able to run in an effective and inclusive way?

How do groups ensure that their representatives are accountable?

The impact of participation and its outcomes

How effective is participatory decision making?

What are the outcomes of participation?

Who benefits from participation?

Applications

Following the publication of the Audit Tools the Joseph Rowntree Foundation funded a further action research project to 'roadtest' them. This included an in depth application with a partnership overseeing the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative in the South West. The most tangible impacts of this audit have been (a) to clarify the different roles of different agencies (b) to bring about changes to processes and procedures at the strategic level (c) to support towns involved in the initiative in articulating their needs to the strategic level.

South Yorkshire Objective 1 Community Economic Development Framework

Key purpose – identifies stages in the economic development of neighbourhoods / regeneration areas.

This CED framework was developed specifically for the Objective One Priority 4 Driver Partnership and provides seven sets of 'building blocks' related to the programme's themes:

- Building social inclusion
- Building skills
- Building organisation
- Building information and communication
- Building resources
- Building access and mobility
- Building strategy

For each building block there are five overall stages to describe the route that development takes as communities progress from a low level of activity and development to high involvement and ownership of community led regeneration.

Stage 1

Communities with a low level of co-ordinated community activity and resources.

Stage 2

Communities with some established groups, some newly emerging groups and a developing infrastructure.

Stage 3

Communities with a range of community activities and some formal network / infrastructure in place.

Stage 4

Communities that are active, well organised and are involved in community economic development.

Stage 5

Communities with a track record of community development of effective partnership working.


Guidance notes provide indicators to help to assess what level of development you have reached in relation to the different building blocks and provide suggestions for possible steps you could take to progress further.

Applications

The CED framework has been used to help communities within South Yorkshire assess their level of development and to develop community action plans for Objective 1 funding. For example, the Barnsley Dearne Community Partnership has reviewed its position in relation to each building block through consultation with a number of partners and external agencies including residents, local community groups and emerging community enterprise partnerships. This has informed the development of their Community Action Plan.

"We believe this assessment gives a realistic picture of the Barnsley Dearne Community Partnership to dateand has now developed an excellent base for establishing working relationships which will benefit and enhance the quality of life of the people of the area."

A support and training consortium comprising Northern College, Cedr and Churches Together for Regeneration has developed a 'toolkit' for a series of seventeen workshop



sessions which take community partnerships through the process of developing their own community action plans and identifying appropriate funding streams. One of the sessions is focussed on enabling partnerships to identify where on the CED framework their organisation / community currently sits.

The framework has also been used as a starting point for developing proposals for a South Yorkshire 'Academy of Community Leadership' (led by Northern College). These proposals analyse the learning needs of communities at different stages of development within the framework and put forward recommendations for a co-ordinated needs led approach to learning provision.

Assessing Community Strengths

Key purpose – planning neighbourhood based capacity building initiatives.

This handbook provides guidelines for a detailed approach to assessing the capacity of communities to take lead roles in regeneration and local action. The assessment is based upon two elements – the level of community organisation and the level of support provided. In combination, these help build a comprehensive and detailed picture of community capacity, and highlight gaps in both activity and infrastructure that can be acted on through new initiatives and planning.

The process described includes the following stages and elements:

- A survey of community and voluntary organisations.
- A survey of organisations providing support.
- Analysis of information gathered through these two surveys.
- Consultation workshops and meetings to discuss the draft findings.
- Assessment of the current level of capacity
- Development of action plans

This approach is based upon ABCD and the Objective 1 CED framework, but adapted and developed so that Assessing Community Strengths can be used in a range of contexts. It is based upon four themes (related to ABCD):

- Building organisations
- Building skills
- Building equality
- Building involvement

For each of these themes the framework (based upon the CED framework) includes characteristics, which can be used to describe five levels or degrees of community organisation and support. These levels are summarised as

1. 'creating',
2. 'connecting',
3. 'structuring',
4. 'partnering'
5. 'sustaining'.

The handbook includes detailed examples of surveys (e.g. questionnaires) and workshop plans that can be used or adapted by those following the process.

Applications

Assessing Community Strengths was created and developed in a New Deal for Communities area in Bradford but as the process has only been recently published, application elsewhere is still in its infancy. However, it is being used in Neighbourhood Management Programmes (e.g. Blacon, Cheshire), in several Community First partnerships in Wales (Welsh translations are available!) and a network of city-wide neighbourhood organisations in Bristol are planning to use it in their own neighbourhoods to create an outline picture across the city.

The key issue raised so far is the difficulty of getting to community based groups and organisations in order to carry out the profiling element. Ideally this should be done face to face. A Community First Partnership in Gwynedd found an answer; *"In one area the questionnaires were distributed in a social evening for all community groups – this informal approach proved less threatening and the response rate was 100%"*

Local Performance Community Involvement Indicators

Key purpose – a pool of indicators (from which to select) to measure community involvement

These community involvement indicators are a subset of the voluntary quality of life indicators. These are designed to help local authorities and their partners in Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) to monitor their community strategies. The community involvement indicators arose from concern at the lack of such indicators in the piloted set of quality of life indicators.

During 2001/02 the Audit Commission worked with a range of organisations from the statutory, voluntary, community and academic sectors to develop a set of indicators for community involvement. These indicators are grouped under 10 headings:

1. Community cohesion
2. Community development provision
3. Concern with the locality and/or public issues
4. Effectiveness of community representation
5. Extent and effectiveness of community and voluntary organisations
6. Level of volunteering / community activity
7. Social capital
8. Social economy
9. Social inclusion
10. The responsive authority

The indicators are included in an electronic library overseen by the Audit Commission and the Improvement and Development Agency. The library provides a range of 'off-the-shelf' quality approved performance indicators (PIs) that local authorities can voluntarily select and use if appropriate to their local circumstances.

The development of community involvement indicators was informed by many other tools e.g. the Audit Tools and Active Partners. Unlike many of the other 5 tools, these indicators provide a useful source of quantitative data e.g. 'the percentage of residents surveyed satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live' but are as their title suggests – a list, rather than a framework from which strategic development can be created.

Within these ten dimensions, it is suggested that there is one key headline or "anchor" indicator that forms a core recommended set. Further work is being undertaken by the Audit Commission to further develop these indicators particularly in the areas of social economy, social capital and community cohesion. It is envisaged that this library of indicators will continue to develop new indicators and refine existing ones in the light of experience.

Applications

At the time of writing this guide these indicators are very new and there is little evidence to date of their application.

Selecting and applying the tools and frameworks

The following table provides a brief summary of frameworks and tools covered in this guide and their uses. The final column lists those who are particularly likely to find each framework/tool useful. Communities and community members may be involved as practitioners, partners and/or beneficiaries. This is not meant to be prescriptive and does not cover all potential users, particularly bearing in mind that the frameworks/tools can be adapted to different contexts and purposes. It is also important to stress that the actual application of the frameworks/tools will often involve a wider range of stakeholders.

Framework / Tool	Key purpose	What you get	Who could use it
ABCD	Planning and evaluating community development	Framework for CD planning and evaluation broken down into building blocks, elements, measures and indicators.	Community development policy officers, managers and practitioners
Active Partners	Developing community participation strategies and reviewing progress.	Benchmarks for community participation in regeneration. Includes suggested questions, indicators and practice examples.	Partnership bodies / projects in conjunction with beneficiaries
Auditing Community Participation	Approaches and ideas for checking the extent of community participation	Checklists and exercises to help assess community participation in regeneration.	Partnership bodies / projects in conjunction with beneficiaries
CED framework	Identifies stages in the economic development of neighbourhoods/regeneration areas	Framework which describes 5 levels of development in relation to 7 building blocks of community economic development	Funders, managers and partners in regeneration including community partnerships
Assessing community strengths	Planning neighbourhood based capacity building initiatives.	A model for assessing levels of community activity and levels of support in a given area alongside suggestions for appropriate action	Communities and support agencies, including partnership and infrastructure bodies
Audit Commission Community Involvement indicators	Measurement of community involvement	A pool of indicators (available electronically) which can be used to gather mainly quantitative data	Local authorities, LSPs (and all individual partners)

Complementary uses

Whilst each framework was developed for a specific purpose, many of these frameworks and tools can be used together. For example:

- ♣ The Assessing Community Strengths framework is informed by both ABCD and the CED framework.
- ♣ The Barnsley Dearne Community Partnership used both the CED framework and Active Partners in developing their action plan. *“We agreed that it is important to fully assess our current status and have used the criteria in the CED framework with assistance from*

Active Partners for measuring our performance on each of the activities.” (Barnsley Dearne Community Partnership Community Action Plan).

- ♣ Experience has shown that the Audit Tools and Active Partners can be used together very effectively. For example, the checklists and exercises in the Audit Tools e.g. “What communities are there within the localities covered by the partnership?” are particularly helpful in developing a community participation strategy using the Active Partners framework. The complementarities of the two approaches has been recognised and a reformulated framework is being developed to bring the two together. This will have three inter-related elements:
 - 1 It will identify key considerations which together lay out a framework that partners need to think through.
 - 2 It will identify indicators which relate to each of these key considerations,
 - 3 It will identify a set of tools which can be used to unpack and assess the extent to which these indicators have been achieved.This new framework will be published in Spring 2003 by Policy Press on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Making the frameworks work for you

Be creative in adapting and applying frameworks and tools to your own context and purpose. Frameworks are there to be played with and will develop over time. When considering a particular approach it may be necessary to adapt certain aspects to ensure it is relevant to your situation. In addition, to ‘lift a framework off the paper’ you will need to think about interesting exercises that will engage people in a participatory process. With the possible exception of the Community Involvement Indicators all the frameworks are based upon principles of involving a wide range of stakeholders in the process of application. This requires participatory techniques, for example the following exercises have been used in applying Active Partners.

1. Who is our community and who should we try to involve?

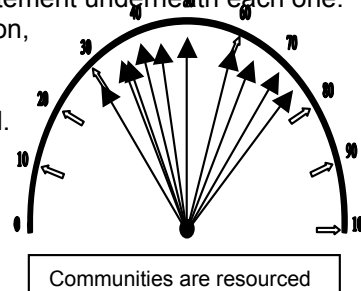
- Place several pieces of flip chart paper on the floor or on a table with a series of circles, each with a heading e.g service users, minority ethnic communities, economic communities, community groups, locally managed voluntary groups, faith communities, age based groups, geographical communities, communities of interest, communities of identity, workplace communities.
- Ask participants to identify all the groups which fall into the circles, to write them onto cards and place them in the appropriate circle
- Examine the picture created and facilitate a discussion about who is and isn’t currently involved and what can be done to improve participation from across the circles.

The ‘map’ of groups and communities can form a useful display to which individuals and groups can add to, if placed in public spaces.

2. What is our baseline position and what action can we take to increase participation?

This exercise provides a good starting point for developing community participation strategies using the Active Partners benchmarks.

- Draw speedometers onto A3 sheets of paper with a benchmark statement underneath each one. Place them on the wall or on tables, clustered around communication, capacity, inclusivity and influence.
- Ask participants to mark a line onto the speedometer at the point they think the project, scheme, programme in question has reached.
- Participants identify what has helped to get them to this ‘speed’ and / or action to help ‘speed up’.
- The action points can then be prioritised, each with an agreed timescale and milestones which will indicate progress.



And finally

A criticism common to all the frameworks and tools is that they can appear complex. However community development and community participation is complex and so over simplification may lead to important issues and consideration not being addressed. Some frameworks help you consider practice from different perspectives or dimensions which inevitably overlap. While this can, at first, be confusing it ensures that all angles are covered and nothing important is missed from the required discussion and debate.

Experience shows that the process works best when there is a 'framework champion' – some accountable person or group with dedicated time to explore application of the frameworks and drive the process forwards. There is also a need for someone with facilitation skills. This is in part because if the primary purpose of the frameworks is as a developmental aid then the aim of the exercise is to open up a dialogue about the issues. This involves (a) ensuring the regular participation of groups in the process, and (b) clarity about use of the information once it is gained.

We hope that this guide has helped to both give you a better understanding of current frameworks and tools, so that you can identify which are going to be most appropriate to particular uses, and the confidence to feel able to creatively adapt and develop them to fit your purpose.

Reference Materials

ABCD Materials

ABCD Handbook – A framework for evaluating community development

By Alan Barr and Stuart Hashagen

Describes the approach, discusses the components of community development in detail, and sets out the stages for planning and evaluation.

ISBN 1 901974 20 0

ABCD Trainers' Resource Pack

By Alan Barr and Stuart Hashagen

Provides all the materials necessary to deliver training in ABCD or to facilitate events and activities to help people to understand the approach. Designed to be used in conjunction with the handbook.

ISBN 1 901974 22 7

Available from

www.cdf.org.uk

Active Partners

Active Partners – Benchmarking Community Participation in Regeneration

By Mandy Wilson and Pete Wilde, COGS

Includes the benchmarking framework and guidelines including key considerations and suggested indicators and good practice for each benchmark

Available from:

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Forum for Voluntary and Community Organisations

www.yhregforum.org.uk

“Benchmarking community participation: Developing and implementing the Active Partners benchmarks” (2003 (JRF) is the he story of the development of Active Partners

Available from

www.jrf.org.uk

Auditing Community Participation

Auditing community participation – an assessment handbook

By Danny Burns and Marilyn Taylor

ISBN 1 86134 271 3

Available from

www.policypress.org.uk or www.jrf.org.uk

Objective One CED Framework

CED Framework and Guidelines, developed by COGS for South Yorkshire Objective One

Available from

www.cogs.uk.net

Assessing Community Strengths

Assessing Community Strengths – a practical handbook for planning capacity building initiatives

By Steve Skinner and Mandy Wilson

ISBN 1 901974 31 6

Available from

www.cdf.org.uk

A new approach to assessing community strengths - JRF Findings provides a summary of the approach

www.jrf.org.uk

Audit Commission Community Involvement Indicators

Can be downloaded from the Audit Commission / IDeA library of indicators

www.local-pi-library.gov.uk/LIBRARY_ALL_PIS.ASP?MENUID=841

Strategic Framework for Community Development

Available from CDX, www.cdx.org.uk