

Confident Creative Citizens and Communities

A Framework for Community Learning and Development in Edinburgh

2005–2008

پُر اعتماد اور تخلیقی صلاحیتوں کے حامل شہری اور کمیونٹیز

ایڈنبرا میں کمیونٹی کی تعلیم و ترقی کیلئے ایک انتظامی ڈھانچہ

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إطار عمل لتطویر وتعلیم المجتمع في إدنبرة

আত্মবিশ্বাসী সৃজনশীল নাগরিকগণ এবং সম্প্রদায়

এডিনবরায় সম্প্রদায়ভিত্তিক শিক্ষা এবং উন্নয়নের কাঠামো



Edinburgh's Community Learning and Development Partnership fully endorses and supports the Scottish Executive and COSLA vision for Community Learning and Development.

‘We want to increase opportunities for individuals and communities who are excluded, improve public services where it will make most difference and create a more socially just Scotland.’

‘Through community planning, we aim to make sure that agencies work with communities to improve their well-being. Through community learning and development, we aim to make sure that communities can be full partners in this.’

(Scottish Executive and COSLA)

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This Strategic Framework sets out how we will do this in Edinburgh. It aims to guide, inform and support the overall direction of CLD activity in Edinburgh and remain flexible enough to accommodate changing priorities and local requirements.



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CONTENTS

Page

• What is Community Learning and Development (CLD)?	1
• What Principles Guide CLD?	1
• Community Learning and Development in Edinburgh	2
• Community Learning and Development priorities in Edinburgh	3
• What will this mean in practice?	4
• How will Community Learning Development activity be reported?	5

What is Community Learning and Development?

In March 2004 the Scottish Executive published *Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities*. This guidance document describes the contribution that **Community Learning and Development** can make to meet the Executive's social justice and lifelong learning priorities. *Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities* recognises and promotes the contribution of **Community Learning and Development** to building social capital. It sets out three new national priorities:

- **Achievement through learning for adults**
- **Achievement through learning for young people**
- **Achievement through building community capacity**

Community Learning and Development is about personal, group and community advancement. It involves becoming more skilled at dealing confidently and constructively with personal, family, work, social or political issues. **Community Learning and Development** can enable people to exert real influence on factors that affect their lives by:

- promoting personal and social development
eg by providing guidance on learning, training or employment issues, running confidence building courses, developing literacy skills, mentoring, creating opportunities for volunteering
- sharing and promoting skills, information and knowledge
eg by running taster events, and workshops, offering formal and informal adult education opportunities, developing online learning materials
- supporting effective and confident participation in community life
eg by providing funding, support and other information to community and voluntary groups, running committee skills and other training courses

Ideally **Community Learning and Development** activities will:

- be tailored to what suits people best
- reflect the evidenced needs of learners
- be developed together with communities and participants
- have clear aims and outcomes
- offer the chance for people to make measurable progress

3Ms (Morningside, Marchmont and Merchiston) Youth Partnership

The 3Ms Youth Partnership evolved from a project involving young people as volunteers (Millennium Volunteers) and during this initiative, work with young people was identified as a priority of the Community Learning Plan for the area. The partnership between Community Education, The Eric Liddell Centre, 3Ms Development Project and local churches has been successful in accessing new youth work funding. Seventy young people enjoyed a range of activities through the 3Ms Summer Sun Programme and further work planned includes a club for socially vulnerable young people in S1 and S2 referred by the school's guidance staff, a drop-in youth club for S1+ and an Open All Hours club on Fridays at St Thomas of Aquinas secondary school whilst the local swim centre is refurbished.

What Principles Guide Community Learning and Development?

Widening Participation

- encouraging people who do not usually take part in learning to participate

Inclusion, equality of opportunity and anti-discrimination

- recognising that some people may need additional support to overcome the barriers they face in participating

Self-determination

- acknowledging the right of people to make their own choices

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Lifelong Learning

- developing opportunities to learn at every stage in life

Active Citizenship

- increasing the ability of individuals and groups to influence issues that affect them and their communities

Partnership Working

- coordinating priority setting and decision making and coming together with others to ensure all CLD resources are used most effectively

City Centre Under 5s Forum

The forum set up as part of the City Centre Community Learning Plan brought together a range of agencies and organisations working with families that had children under 5 years of age. The forum was successful in attracting funding to pay for a temporary development worker and the costs of producing a booklet entitled *A Buggy Walk Away*. This booklet gave parents and carers of young children information about a range of services in the city centre area. The development worker is also supporting the development of a forum for parents and carers in the city centre area.

Community Learning and Development in Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership (ECLDP) is one of Edinburgh's community planning strategic partnerships.

The simplest way to describe community planning is that it aims to increase joint planning of services, improve service delivery and engage communities in those processes.

ECLDP brings together organisations involved in designing and delivering **Community Learning and Development** opportunities. It has produced the following statement of intent:

'Edinburgh's Community Learning and Development Partnership will work collectively to inspire, enable and promote Community Learning and Development opportunities, including the development of a citywide Community Guidance Strategy to support the progression of individual learners according to their interest and ability. Partnership members are committed to the principles of community engagement and will work collectively to ensure that the design and delivery of Community Learning and Development takes account of – and reflects – the diverse needs of the City's population and that equalities are mainstreamed into all activities. The Partnership will strive to ensure that these important principles are reflected in the evolution and delivery of a new Community Learning and Development Strategy for the City of Edinburgh.'

ECLDP's vision is that **Community Learning and Development** will support, encourage and promote the growth of:

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The Partnership will promote **Community Learning and Development** activities that close the opportunity gap, achieve social justice and encourage community regeneration. Such activities will encourage individuals and groups, particularly those at risk of exclusion, to develop knowledge, skills, abilities and confidence that support meaningful and rewarding participation in community life.

To achieve this vision partners will have to re-prioritise existing resources and target provision accordingly. Whilst currently there are few new resources being made available specifically to deliver **Community Learning and Development** activities, the Partnership is committed to seeking new funding to support this work from a variety of sources.

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Community Learning and Development priorities in Edinburgh

Edinburgh's Community Learning and Development Partnership endorses and will take forward the three nationally agreed priorities for **Community Learning and Development**.

The Partnership believes this will not only encourage consistency across the city but also assist Edinburgh to measure its contribution to **Community Learning and Development** nationally.

The actual activities within these priority areas should be designed to meet communities' needs and reflect local circumstances. They will build on existing community learning plans where these are operating successfully and be an integral part of – or complement – local community planning partnerships.

- **Priority Area – achievement through learning for adults**

Raising standards of achievement in learning by engaging with adults to facilitate personal development and through a wide range of community based lifelong learning opportunities incorporating the core skills of literacy, numeracy, communication, working with others, problem solving and information communications technology (ICT),

eg supporting personal development and increasing self confidence, providing internet taster sessions and literacy classes in community venues, working with further and higher education colleagues to widen access to vocational and non-vocational learning opportunities, increasing access to community guidance and opportunities for accreditation.

- **Priority Area – achievement through learning for children and young people**

Engaging with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and a place in society,

eg working with children and young people in youth clubs and in a range of other settings and organisations and through detached youth work, providing specific literacy opportunities, developing the city's Youth Council and promoting active citizenship within schools and community settings.

- **Priority Area – achievement through building community capacity**

Building community capacity and influence by enabling people to develop the confidence, knowledge, understanding and skills to influence decision-making and service delivery,

eg providing training on local democracy, encouraging and supporting involvement in volunteering and community activity, working with locally developed management committees, working with local residents on issues of concern (environment, education, housing, community safety, etc) and supporting voluntary organisations to become more viable.

West Edinburgh Community Learning Website

The West Edinburgh Community Learning Partnership identified the need to improve the publicity of local learning opportunities. With a variety of partners the partnership has developed an interactive website for learners to use to find out what is happening in west Edinburgh. Local agencies and voluntary organisations are able to post information about their activities directly on to the database within the website. The database of local learning opportunities is designed in such a way to enable learners to search by venue, time or subject. The site also has forums for discussions to take place and can be accessed directly or via myEdinburgh (www.westedinburgh.org.uk or www.myedinburgh.org).

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What will this mean in practice?

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This framework identifies five high level outcomes which will guide work at a city-wide level and support the delivery of activities under each of the national priorities at a local level. An outcome can be described as 'what something should look like' at the end of a series of activities.

High-Level Outcomes

1 **Community Learning and Development** is embedded in all of Edinburgh's community planning processes.

Indicators

- **Community Learning and Development** is understood and valued by community planning partners.
- **Community Learning and Development** priorities are reflected in the plans of the key strategic partnerships and agencies.
- **Community Learning and Development** supports the development of community engagement across the Community Planning structures.

2 Excluded groups and individuals access and benefit from **Community Learning and Development** activities.

Indicators

- More people from excluded groups engage in **Community Learning and Development** opportunities and activities.
- **Community Learning and Development** activity contributes to the implementation of Regeneration Outcome Agreements.
- Participation in voluntary or community activity increases through **Community Learning and Development**.

3 **Community Learning and Development** supports Community Guidance to enable achievement through learning for adults and young people.

Indicators

- Individuals and communities have easy access to all age guidance provision.
- Individuals make informed decisions about learning, training, work and engagement in local issues.
- Specific target groups, particularly disadvantaged and disengaged individuals, make use of guidance and services.
- Community groups and workplaces are encouraged and supported to deliver guidance activity.
- Partner organisations have the knowledge, skills and up to date information they need to respond to the guidance needs of current and potential learners/participants.
- Individuals, communities and partnerships are committed to Community Guidance and aware of its benefits.

4 **Community Learning and Development** good practice is affirmed and lessons learned are widely shared.

Indicators

- Good practice informs service development at city-wide and local level.
- Monitoring and evaluating clearly demonstrates success factors.

- 5 Participants in **Community Learning and Development** activities feel involved and influence its planning.

Indicators

- Fewer **Community Learning and Development** activities are cancelled because of poor take up/low numbers.
- All **Community Learning and Development** planning processes use a variety of methods to involve participants.
- Participants are satisfied with their role in planning and reviewing **Community Learning and Development** activity.

A separate implementation plan detailing outputs and activities for each of the above outcomes will be prepared on an annual basis.

How will Community Learning and Development activity be reported?

ECLDP will use the LEAP framework and How Good Is Our Community Learning and Development? to monitor, evaluate and report progress against the agreed outcomes and priorities. Information management and data collection at a local level will support this process. ECLDP will report on an annual basis to the Edinburgh Partnership – in line with the Partnership Agreement to which it is a signatory – and also undertakes to record and report any activity that contributes to the key challenges identified in the City's Community Plan.

At a local level **Community Learning and Development** activity will be described and reported under the three agreed priority areas:

- **Achievement through learning for adults**
- **Achievement through learning for young people**
- **Achievement through building community capacity**

The chief measurement of success will be the number of individuals participating in **Community Learning and Development** activity, although we will also seek to measure the range and choice of learning opportunities that are available.

ECLDP will encourage and support local partnerships to collect data regarding levels of participation under the three main priorities. ECLDP will also work with partners to collect participant information on city-wide activity. The total number of individuals engaged in **Community Learning and Development** activity will then be identified by bringing together the local figures (as identified by local partnerships) and the city-wide activity figures.

ECLDP will also monitor its progress against the outcome areas identified and, where appropriate, will ask local partnerships to also collect similar information.

The annual report that is submitted to the Edinburgh Partnership will be distributed to strategic and local partnerships and will be available to all other interested parties.

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Background Information

CONTENTS

Page

- How Did We Get Here? 1
- The Wider Picture 3
- Current Membership of ECDLP 4

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How Did We Get Here?

The City of Edinburgh published *New Directions* in 2000. This city-wide strategy for community learning was based on Scottish Office guidance (Circular 4/99) and was the first time that organisations involved in delivering community-learning opportunities had come together formally.

The key principles of the 4/99 Guidance were:

- active citizenship
- lifelong learning
- social inclusion
- widening participation
- the chance to learn at every stage in life
- working in partnership
- consulting with learners

New Directions turned these into a series of priority actions for community learning in Edinburgh that in turn underpinned the development of Edinburgh's 12 Community Learning Plans (CLPs). There are ten local plans and two thematic/city-wide plans (Literacy and Numeracy and ICT – Information and Communications Technology).

Community Learning Planning was identified as the overall responsibility of the local authority and this task was delegated to the Community Education Service of the City of Edinburgh Council. The Community Education Service led on:

- the development of local partnerships of providers and learners
- the creation and maintenance of a city-wide, strategic group to oversee, support and monitor the process

This group was called the Community Learning Implementation Group (CLIG) and it worked to support the writing, publication and implementation of the 12 plans.

The self-evaluations of all these plans has informed the way in which ECDLP is now implementing the priorities in 'Working and Learning Together' and will be the foundation for strengthening **Community Learning and Development** at a local level.

In June 2002 the Scottish Executive issued *Community Learning and Development: the Way Forward*. This set out how the Executive intended to embed **Community Learning and Development** firmly within its priorities of:

- improvement of public service
- community regeneration
- social inclusion
- lifelong learning
- active citizenship

Statutory Guidance and Advice on Community Planning supports the implementation of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. The Act requires local authorities to lead on community planning and places a duty on other public services to be involved in this process. The three principles of community planning are:

- Joined up services
- More effective services
- Community engagement

In publishing *Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities* in 2004, the Scottish Executive therefore makes it clear that CLD must underpin the work of Community Planning. Community Planning Partnerships have to demonstrate the increased involvement of communities in shaping strategic planning and service delivery.

In Edinburgh this means working through the city's community planning structure, the Edinburgh Partnership, and identifying the ways in which **Community Learning and Development** can contribute to delivery on the city's key challenges as expressed in the City Plan:

- providing the best start for children and young people
- providing quality education and lifelong learning opportunities
- improving services and facilities for older people
- tackling disadvantage
- improving transport
- ensuring clean, green and safe neighbourhoods
- providing affordable housing
- improving the city centre
- improving labour supply
- improving help for all

The Community Learning Implementation Group – which developed and implemented *New Directions* – recently undertook to review and evaluate its effectiveness as a strategic partnership. As a result of this process and in recognition of the new Scottish Executive Guidance *Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities*, CLIG agreed to reform as the **Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership** (ECLDP).

The Partnership aims to:

- develop, deliver and report on an innovative **Community Learning and Development** Strategy reflecting the needs and aspirations of participants and partners
- actively participate in – and contribute to – effective Community Planning in Edinburgh as a Strategic Partnership in the agreed structure
- ensure that the requirement for effective community engagement in the partnership process is met and monitor progress on this at all stages
- support neighbourhood **Community Learning and Development** Planning structures and respond to key issues and themes emerging from this process
- resource **Community Learning and Development** effectively through establishing and monitoring partnership agreements at a city-wide level
- take responsibility for the delivery of citywide **Community Learning and Development** initiatives resulting from securing external funding
- align relevant policies and strategies and ensure clear communication of these through identified **Community Learning and Development** networks and across other strategic partnerships
- develop effective reporting mechanisms at all levels which takes account of strategic requirements and targets and local delivery structures
- maintain an overview of Edinburgh's **Community Learning and Development** activity and share examples of good practice

The National Guidance highlights the key role of **Community Learning and Development** practitioners in ensuring that communities are fully engaged in the community planning process. Within the City of Edinburgh Council the **Community and Learning Development** Service within the Children and Families Department will coordinate the implementation of the Strategic Framework for **Community Learning and Development** and lead on the Council's contribution to the process. However, it is important to recognise that this process can only be taken forward effectively in partnership with other **Community Learning and Development** service providers across all sectors in the City.

ECLDP believes that being a member of the Partnership should:

- add value to what individual agencies and groups are able to do individually
- be representative of a range of different sectors
- promote collective and mutual problem solving
- learn from what works (and what doesn't)
- support and strengthen opportunities for learning activity
- assess the impact of relevant policies on communities of interest
- improve the provider/learner relationship and experience

ECLDP's membership may change from time to time to reflect priorities: a list of current members can be found at the end of Background Information (page 4)

The Wider Picture

Community Learning and Development is part of Community Planning in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Partnership acts as the overall community planning partnership for the city, bringing together agencies, strategic partnerships and community representatives to jointly plan public services and set priorities. These priorities are called key challenges and are set out in the City Plan. As one of the city's strategic partnerships ECLDP contributes towards meeting these priorities as well as linking with many other important community planning initiatives in Edinburgh, eg Integrated Community Schools, the city's Joint Health Improvement Plan and Regeneration Outcome Agreements at a city-wide and locality level.

The place and contribution of ECLDP to the process of community planning in Edinburgh is indicated in the diagram below.

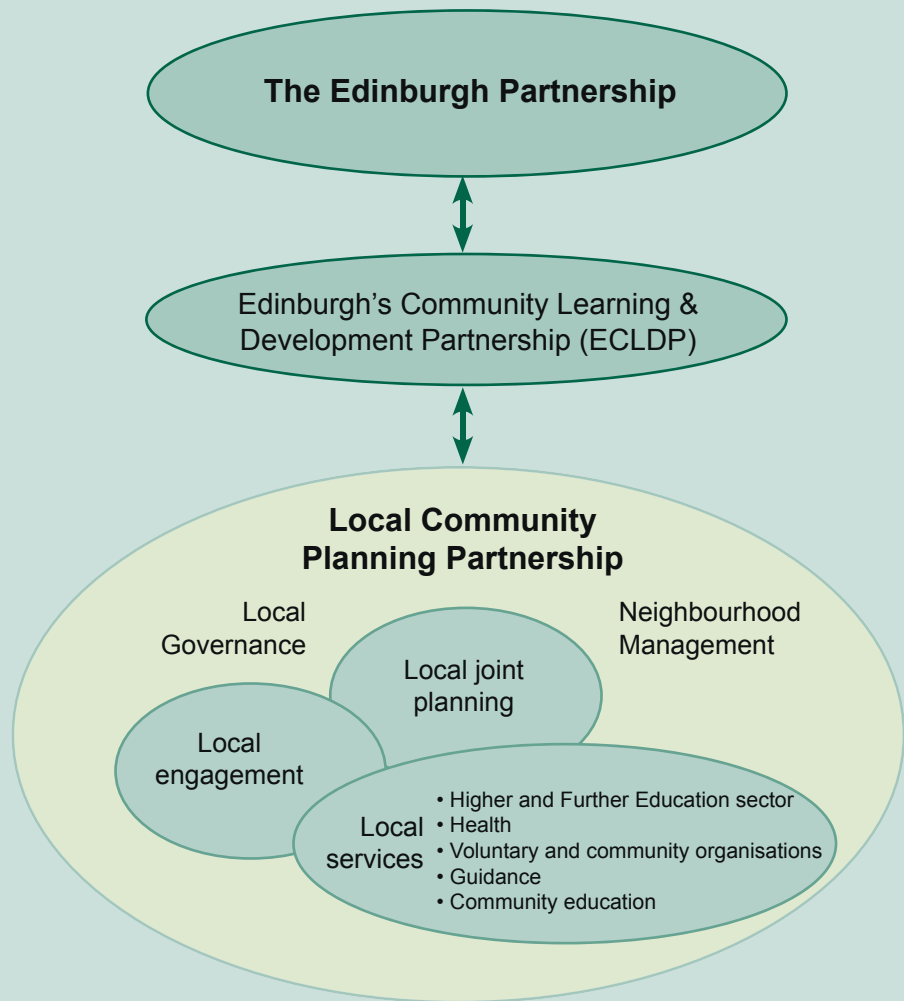


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To further develop community planning across the city, the City of Edinburgh Council along with the Edinburgh Partnership is looking at setting up local community planning partnerships (LCPPs) to cover the whole city. The emerging structures are intended to improve the provision of Council and other services at local level and to involve communities more actively in decision-making.

The LCPP will bring together elected members, agencies and community representatives to consider local issues and problems, look at how services can be improved, and plan changes together to bring about those improvements. **Community Learning and Development** can encourage, enable and support individuals and groups to participate effectively in this process. The LCPP would also be seen as the most appropriate place to plan **Community Learning and Development** activity, although how this would be done would be down to each LCPP.

The relationship of ECLDP and LCPPs is illustrated in the diagram below.



Current Membership of the ECLDP

Membership of ECLDP includes representatives from:

- City of Edinburgh Council (Children and Families Department, City Development Department, Corporate Services Department, Culture and Leisure Department),
- The Voluntary Sector, (Volunteer Centre Edinburgh, The Network, EVOC),
- Higher Education,
- Further Education,
- Careers Scotland,
- Capital City Partnership,
- and*
- NHS Lothian.

A list of the representatives' names is available on request.

ECLDP is currently developing mechanisms for linking effectively with local community planning structures as well as with citywide voluntary organisations and participants in **Community Learning and Development** activities.

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Community Learning and Development Strategic Framework

Glossary

Active Citizenship

Making informed choices and decisions, taking action individually and as part of a collective process

Community or Communities

This can be either a geographic community (a group of people living in one area) or a 'community of interest' (a group of people who share a common characteristic or identity, such as black and minority ethnic communities).

Community-based Adult Learning

Adult education available in a community setting rather than in an institutional context such as a college, and with programmes and activities developed in dialogue with participants.

Community Capacity Building

Measures that strengthen the collective ability of a community

Community Engagement

A process that involves purposeful dialogue between public agencies and communities aimed at improving understanding between them and taking more effective action to achieve beneficial change

Community Guidance

The provision of careers, training and employment advice and support delivered in a variety of community settings and through a variety of agencies.

Community Learning and Development

Learning and social development work with individuals and groups in their communities using a range of formal and informal methods. A common defining feature is that programmes and activities are developed in dialogue with communities and participants.

Community Learning and Development Strategy

A statement that highlights the joint aims of community learning and development partners over a three-year period across a local authority area

Community Learning and Development Action Plan

A joint three-year work plan for a specific theme, local geographic area or community of interest agreed by the community learning and development partners.

Community Planning

This is a strategic process whereby the public services in the area of the local authority are planned and provided after consultation and ongoing cooperation among all public bodies and with community bodies.

Compact Partnership

A partnership of public agencies and the voluntary and community sector working to improve the relations between partners.

COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities)

A membership organisation that acts a representative voice and as the employers' association for all Scottish councils.

Detached Youth Work

A form of youth work which directly engages with young people on the street

The Edinburgh Partnership

The Edinburgh Partnership is the city-wide Community Planning Partnership for Edinburgh with representation from key public and voluntary sector agencies, strategic partnerships, businesses and community representatives.

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How Good Is Our Community Learning and Development?

A monitoring and evaluation framework produced by HMIE (Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education) that identifies quality indicators for Community Learning and Development partners to use in evaluating practice.

Integrated Community Schools

Schools that provide a range of services to support individual students as well as providing increased access to school facilities out of school hours. The Scottish Executive aims to roll this approach out to all schools by 2007 as part of its social inclusion policy.

Joint Health Improvement Plan

This is an action plan put together by the City Council, other statutory agencies and the National Health Service in Edinburgh to improve the health of the citizens of Edinburgh.

LEAP Framework

A planning and evaluation framework produced by the Community Development Foundation for the Scottish Executive to be used by community learning partnerships.

National Standards for Community Engagement

A set of standards that can be used to develop and support better working relationships between communities and agencies delivering public services. The standards are published by Communities Scotland.

Outcomes

Outcomes are what we expect to achieve and the effect of what we do.

Outputs

Outputs are the actions that we take in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

Regeneration Outcome Agreement

An agreement stating the outcomes to be achieved through the provision of Community Regeneration Funding awarded by the Scottish Executive via Communities Scotland. These agreements can be for areas of deprivation or for the city.

Social Capital

The skills, resources, networks, opportunities and motivation that a community has which enable it to work together effectively to promote its own well-being.

Social Justice

This is the equal and fair distribution of social values such as freedom, income and wealth and the opportunity to take part in society.

Youth Work

Informal learning and personal and social development work with young people enabling them to gain a voice, influence and place in society.

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