



# Time to redress the balance

Most of the interviewees operated from a 'seeing is believing' experience that the community-led aspect is often the magic factor in innovation, anti-poverty work and community change"

*Community-led Health Initiatives: Value for Money? NHS/CHEX 2008*

"There is still much work to be done on understanding the strategic contribution of community-led health improvement, its distinctive outcomes, and its contribution to other outcomes."

*Peter Taylor, Internal evaluator on the Meeting the Shared Challenge Team Nov 2009*

"Community-led initiatives can take action on social circumstances...Community-led health initiatives have provided alternative and complementary service provision for improving health, offering personal development within a local context rather than treatment oriented services."

*Pauline Craig, Steering Group for Meeting the Shared Challenge, Aug 2010*

Regular introduction of short-term local initiatives can be disruptive and will have limited lasting impact on reducing health inequalities". *Health Inequalities in Scotland, Audit Scotland 2012*

"Inadvertently, in seeking to improve the lot of the most disadvantaged members of our society, we may have made them more rather than less alienated by doing things to them rather than with them."

*CMO, Health in Scotland 2009 Time for Change*

"Co-production is central to the process of growing the core economy. It goes well beyond the idea of 'citizen engagement' or 'service user involvement' to foster the principle of equal partnership. It offers to transform the dynamic between the public and public services workers putting an end to 'them' and 'us'. Instead, people pool different types of knowledge and skills based on lived experience and professional learning."

*The Challenge of Co-production, NESTA, 2009*

The Challenge of Co-production

Further work needs to be done to redress the balance between the more dominant deficits approach and the emerging and less well-known and understood asset based approach. Adopting an asset based approach is community-led, long term, open ended and has less certain, unpredictable outcomes which are likely to take time to emerge. The approach is not a 'one size fits all' approach and will require careful negotiation on an individual basis when working with communities and the building of trust between community members and professional staff."

*Asset Based Approaches for Health Improvement: redressing the balance GCPH 2011*

"The challenge we face, in its simplest form, is how we make developing and supporting community-led solutions a part of mainstream business, rather than an occasional project, add-on or experimental programme. This will present challenges including for example shifting resources, challenging the pattern of service delivery and potentially reassessing professional roles and responsibilities."

*Building a Sustainable Future, Scottish Government 2011*

"Social integration – the feeling of belonging within a community – has even stronger protective value than social support provided by services...the current economic climate provides an opportunity to review and reshape the role of public services and their relationship with local communities. It emphasises the importance of public services working with communities more effectively, creating better and more productive partnerships with individuals, communities and fellow agencies."

*Supporting Continued Investment in Mental Health Improvement, NHS, 2011*

"A community-led approach is based on the understanding that some people, some groups and some communities are excluded from social, economic and political opportunities for reasons of lack of wealth, cultural oppression, physical obstacles or prejudice attitudes. Any intervention that does not actively and positively engage all disadvantaged groups within a community acts as a further mechanism for exclusion and reinforces/exacerbates powerlessness."

*Understanding a Community-led Approach to health Improvement SCDC, 2008*