

# CREATING CHANGES

VALUING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEARNING



supporting communities  
creating change



BATH SPA  
UNIVERSITY  
NEWTON  
PARK  
CAMPUS  
JULY 26<sup>th</sup>  
2011

SOUTH WEST FOUNDATION

## **CONTEXT**

This Conference is a partnership event between South West Foundation, The Federation for Community Development Learning and Bath Spa University.

## **AIM**

The conference will focus on living examples of Community Development Learning looking at how these have worked with communities. It will also look at some of the challenges facing Community Development and Community Development Learning and consider future developments.

## **AUDIENCE**

The conference is aimed at people involved in or with an interest in Community Development and Community Development Learning from housing associations, local authorities, voluntary and community sector organisations, health, universities and other educational institutions.

## **ORGANISERS OF THIS CONFERENCE**

**South West Foundation** is an independent charitable organisation which focuses on supporting small community organisations through grants, training and research.

e-mail: [info@southwestfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@southwestfoundation.org.uk)

**Federation for Community Development Learning** is a national membership organisation with a focus on developing and promoting good quality community development learning opportunities that support real change.

e-mail : [info@fcdl.org.uk](mailto:info@fcdl.org.uk)

**Bath Spa University's** Lifelong Learning Team works across organisations and communities and has established a partnership with South West Foundation to work together on enhancing Community Development Learning.

**Venue** - The conference is being held on Bath Spa University's beautiful Newton Park campus at Newton St Loe on the outskirts of Bath. Set in a parkland estate designed by Capability Brown and leased from the Duchy of Cornwall, Newton Park boasts its own lake, nature reserve, woods and farmland, along with beautiful historically important buildings.

## **Workshops include:**

### **1 How Community Organising relates to Community**

**Development:** Dave Beck, Glasgow University. Community organising starts with the recognition that change can only come about when communities come together to compel public authorities and businesses to respond to the needs of ordinary people. It identifies and trains leaders in diverse communities, bringing them together to voice their needs and it organizes campaigns to ensure that these needs are met. This workshop looks at the relationship between Community Development and the Government's new initiative around Community Organising.

### **2 Creating Changes – supporting small community groups:**

Janice Marks: Federation for Community Development Learning.

Creating Changes is a BIG funded project that aims to address the increasing inequalities within the voluntary and community sectors by improving the support offered to small community groups by local support and development organisations. This workshop will explore what changes are needed and how the project can achieve the best possible impact.

### **3 Community Researchers: from Community Shops to Play**

**Parks:** Jan Crawley South West Foundation and Linda Jones NS Housing

For the last three years people in communities have been learning how to undertake their own research to bring about change and improvements in those communities from setting up community shops to new play parks. This workshop looks at how involving communities in undertaking their own research helps to bring that about change designed by communities for communities.

### **4 The Magic of Networks: The value of community**

**development networks:** John Stevens, Community Development South East.

Community Development South East was one of the first Community Development Networks in the country. Discover more about the challenges facing Community Development, the Campaign for Community Development and how networking can assist and support the movement.

### **5 Housing and Community Development:**

Helen Barbrook. Westlea Housing Association. Westlea Housing Association have a reputation for their community development approach to housing and communities. In this workshop they look at how they started with this

approach. How they evaluate impact. What has gone well and where it has led them to in terms of supporting their communities and changing services.

## **6 Ubuntu and Changing Black Perspectives:** Dean

T.Huggins.Chair of Ubuntu: The Black Power movement led to a dramatic change in African and Caribbean communities living in Britain in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. A collective black identity developed that included Asian and other communities. This workshop looks at;

- How are emerging racial, ethnic and national perspectives affecting communities in their efforts to challenge the barriers that they experience?
- What implications does this have for community activists and workers who use a Black perspective approaches to their work?
- Where does a self organised group, like Ubuntu, go to make sure that it plays a positive part in building equality and tackling discrimination?

## **7 A community based approach to addressing mental health issues:** Faisa Ibrahim, Maan Somali Mental Health Sheffield.

Maan grew out of the expressed needs of the Somali community in Sheffield, and for 18 years has been working to break down the taboo around mental ill health, act as a bridge between the community and the mental health services, and support individuals and families. The workshop will share and explore some of the wealth of learning and experience that has been built up in working with migrant communities and why we need such projects.

## **8 Getting in and getting on – access and progression in Community Development Learning:** Jim Crawley Bath Spa University

Many members of local communities have benefitted in life-changing ways from community development learning. This workshop discusses how such achievement could lead to further learning and how universities, voluntary and community sector organisations and others could promote access to further learning opportunities in flexible and accessible ways in the future. The session will be interactive, and there will be opportunities to contribute your own suggestions and experiences.

**9 Informal Community Development Learning:** Susi Miller  
Federation for Community Development Learning.

Informal Community Development Learning happens in so many diverse ways. Something unique and powerful happens when a group of people, engaged in action for social change, are part of a learning journey together.

It is often through collective learning journeys that a process of alchemy happens. Informal learning and development happens all the time during the work of community groups. Combining the unique ingredients of each individual's experiences and learning brings about a whole range of new insights, questions and debates.

Many of the outcomes of such community group and action based learning can be seen as unexpected and often involves new awareness based on the dialogue, debate and analysis that is done in a group setting. This workshop will demonstrate and further explore these themes.

**10 Empowerment Works: Empowerment and Community Development:** John Skrine from Creating Excellence and Empowerment Works.

For the last three years John Skrine has led the Regional Empowerment Partnership undertaking a range of activities aimed at giving people in communities a greater say and influence. Find out more about how community development contributes to the empowerment agenda. The challenges that this agenda currently faces and how this is being taken forward.

More workshops may be added

**Workshop Choices**

There will be the opportunity for you to attend two workshops. One in the morning and one afternoon. The popular morning workshops will be repeated in the afternoon. Please indicate on your booking form up to four workshops that you would like to attend in order of preference by putting the workshop numbers in the boxes on the booking form. We will do our best to ensure that you get the two workshops of your choice.

# **Creating Changes: Valuing Community Development Learning**

**July 26th 2011 at Bath Spa University**

## **Draft Programme**

**10:00 - 10:30am**

Tea, Coffee and registration

**10:30am**

Opening the Conference and Welcome - Bath Spa University

**10:45am**

Introduction to the day - Jan Crawley: South West Foundation and Dean T Huggins: Federation for Community Development Learning and Ubuntu

**11:00am**

Community Organising and Community Development - Dave Beck: Lecturer (Community Development) (Social Justice Place and Lifelong Education) Glasgow University.

**11:20am - 11:45am**

Introduction to the workshops

**11:45am - 1:00pm**

Morning Workshops

**1:00pm - 2:00pm**

Lunch, networking and Live music

**2:00pm - 3:15pm**

Afternoon Workshops

**3:15pm - 4:00pm**

Looking to the Future:

Session led by the Federation for Community Development Learning in the main hall

**4.00 pm CLOSE**