

## East Lothian Community Planning Partnership Community Engagement Strategy 2010 - 2013



### Why have a Community Engagement Strategy?

This strategy will help us improve the way we work with people and communities across community planning. It will enable and encourage people to share in making decisions on the services they use or those that affect them. In this way our services can truly meet people's needs.

### Who is the Strategy for?

- ✿ Organisations, departments and staff who provide services. It will help us to learn more about community engagement and improve the way we work with different groups of people.
- ✿ Councillors who work with service providers and communities and have influence over the way services are provided.
- ✿ Community leaders and groups who are interested in influencing the way service providers work and the steps we can take together.

## How the Partnership intends to promote community engagement

- ✿ Improve the capacity and skills of members of partner organisations so that minority and seldom heard groups are more involved in community planning.
- ✿ Extend capacity building work with communities and individuals with an emphasis on minority and seldom heard groups to build their confidence and skills so that they can participate in community planning.
- ✿ Support the development of the Diversity Network to encourage and assist partners to engage with minority groups to ensure their voice is heard.
- ✿ Develop the Community Planning Partnership Annual Forum as a key event for building joint working and skills and bringing together service providers and a range of communities.
- ✿ We will establish an East Lothian section on the new Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement (VOiCE) online tool that is accessible to partner organisations and groups within East Lothian so that knowledge and experience can be shared.
- ✿ Use the VOiCE software to improve planning and evaluation of community engagement activities, - and how this information is used by the organisations and groups involved in developing services.
- ✿ Develop a competency-based community engagement training package for Community Planning Partners.
- ✿ Share skills and resources through a community engagement network and information resources bank that can be accessed on the community planning website.

East Lothian's Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan can be downloaded from the Community Planning website at **[www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk](http://www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk)**

To find out more about the strategy or if you don't have internet access and want a paper copy contact Meriel Deans, Public and Community Involvement Co-ordinator at [meriel.deans@nhs.net](mailto:meriel.deans@nhs.net) or phone 0131 536 8025