

Active Citizenship

Introduction

Active Citizenship is a key principle that underpins all of the activities of the Angus Community Planning Partnership.

Partners are keen to develop the aspect of their work that relates to community engagement and active citizenship, to complement and inform their planning arrangements, both at a local geographic level, and at an Angus-wide level.

With regard to community engagement, the Angus Community Planning Partnership has identified six priority outcome areas, critical to the county's future, one of which is 'engaging our communities'. The Community Plan 2007-12 highlights the co-ordinated approach and joint actions needed to address community engagement.

In relation to the wider active citizenship agenda:

- A definition of Active Citizenship has already been agreed by the Angus Community Planning Partnership in 2003, as part of the Active Citizenship Strategy and Action Plan developed for the period 2003-2006; and
- As part of the Partnership's future priorities in relation to active citizenship, it was agreed to develop an Active Citizenship Strategic Statement and action plan for the period 2007-12.

Definition

'Active Citizenship implies the active involvement and participation of citizens in the affairs that concern them as both individuals and as members of the wider society.'

(Centre for Citizenship and Action)

Strategic Statement

Being an active citizen is about much more than simply being a customer or service user. Engaging people in active citizenship is about encouraging individual citizens to take a more active and more direct role in the decision-making processes that affect their lives, communities and work places. This can include taking action and delivering services in communities, as well as seeking to influence the work of others.

Regular engagement with citizens to seek their views about the shape, design and delivery of public services is at the heart of the community planning process. It is important that the actions of community planning partners facilitate and promote the involvement of individual citizens and communities in decisions which affect local services. By operating in this way, we will be in a stronger position to shape policy and procedures and develop services that respond effectively to the needs and interests of communities across Angus.

Active citizenship is about citizens having the confidence to improve their quality of life, and being able and willing to become actively involved in their neighbourhoods and local communities.

Community planning partners should, therefore, make arrangements, singly or jointly, as appropriate, to engage regularly in open and realistic dialogue with citizens and service users in order to build stronger communities and provide services which respond effectively to the needs, aspirations and priorities of local communities.

Angus Community Planning Partnership

**Active Citizenship
Action Plan**

Outcome: Communities are involved in the planning and delivery of services

Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead Responsibility
To provide support to enable people to participate in community life	Implement the actions within the Angus Community Plan in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering • Voluntary Sector • Community Councils • Local area partnerships • Capacity Building • Young People • Older People 	31 March 2012	As outlined in the Angus Community Plan
To find out how community engagement activity has influenced community planning decisions	Undertake impact assessment on an annual basis	31 December 2008	Angus Community Planning Team
	Include community engagement information in performance monitoring	31 March 2010	Angus Community Planning Partnership Performance Management Sub-Group
To find out if the citizens are happy with the services they receive from Angus Community Planning Partners	Undertake customer satisfaction survey	31 December 2008	Angus Community Planning Team
Communicate information about community planning activity and performance to the citizens of Angus	Review the Angus Community Planning Partnership Communications Strategy	31 March 2009	Angus Community Planning Team
	Redesign the Angus Community Planning website	31 December 2008	Angus Community Planning Team, Tayside Police & Angus Council IT Division
	Include an annual progress report in Angus Life	Spring 2008 (annual thereafter)	Angus Community Planning Team