



Case study -

Lochside Neighbourhood



Group: *Making a difference in our
neighbourhood*

A South Ayrshire regeneration forum with its roots firmly planted in co-production, partnership working and bringing together a common vision for the improvement of Lochside and its community.

Lochside Neighbourhood Group

The Lochside Neighbourhood Group is a multi-partnership regeneration forum with representatives from the voluntary sector, business sector, faith groups and the public sector.

The partnership has been working together to make a difference in the Lochside area and has been working on a broad range of projects and initiatives, including green/open space developments, environmental issues, health & wellbeing, creative play spaces, parking and roads issues.

Working in partnership

Lochside Neighbourhood Group is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- North Ayr Community Council
- Lochside Community Association
- Tenants and Residents Groups
- Braehead Primary School
- Local businesses
- Ayrshire Housing
- Access to Employment
- NHS
- Lochside Church
- South Ayrshire Council

Assets

Lochside Neighbourhood Group values the assets and strengths of local residents and adopts a community led approach where representatives from the local community and voluntary sector organisations raise issues of interest or concern as well as sharing skills, knowledge and experiences. The partnership works very effectively as the approach adopted builds upon the strengths, knowledge and experience of the local community as well as the representatives from the business, faith and public sectors. The group is aligned with the masterplan for the area, an overall design of regeneration, demolition and provision of new houses and improvement of leisure facilities and the ADP (Alcohol & Drug Partnership) asset based project.

Capacity

The formation and development of the partnership has been successful as a result of

adopting a community development approach.

As the partnership was only formed in 2012, it is still in a developmental stage, however, a broad range of partners with expertise in the key components of regeneration, including local knowledge, social, physical, economic and environmental services, are involved in the process. In addition, various services and local businesses have come together with local

Lochside Neighbourhood Group

residents and the voluntary sector which has enabled the process of development to be more meaningful, effective, efficient and productive.

Mutuality

Adopting a common vision and common goals has been crucial to the success of the group. The partnership aims to improve the quality of life and overall health and wellbeing of the Lochside community and has worked together across a broad range of regeneration themes.

Networks

Since the formation of the partnership, the number of community representatives and service providers involved has increased considerably. Although formal meetings are not an appropriate setting for all local residents, the database of local people who are involved in developments has increased, as well as the number of organisations from the public, private and faith sectors. They have now received requests from organisations who would like to be involved and promote what they do in the area and have produced the Lochside Community Newsletter to promote the “good news” stories in the area.

Monitoring and evaluation

The process of the partnership development has been monitored from the outset and evidenced using the VOICE system.

Evaluation statements from participants have been used to feed into future developments and the formation of a community action plan.

Shared role

The minutes reflect the fact that each and every member of the group is involved and has a crucial role to play. The skills and knowledge base of individual members is vast and varied. Examples of experience include merchant navy, fire service, retail and hospitality, community safety, education, health & community care, faith groups, PR, business & finance, environment and housing. The partnership is chaired by the Head of Community Care and Housing. As such, local community representatives value the fact that senior managers are committed to working alongside the local community.

Catalysts

Community health profiles for the Lochside area highlight significant health inequalities. In addition, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that the most deprived datazone in South Ayrshire in the overall SIMD is Lochside, Braehead and Whitletts.

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Local residents and voluntary sector organisations came together with public services and the business sector to form a meaningful partnership where participants have mutual respect for each other and all views are respected and taken into consideration. By adopting a “can do” approach and highlighting “you said; we did” the partnership has received very positive feedback from local community representatives as well as senior managers.

Since its formation the group has engaged with the community to organise multiple clean up days, worked with the local council and the community to help prevent access to the community centre being blocked by parked cars and has developed a creative play area based on the designs of local children and their families.

For further information on the Lochside Neighbourhood Group please contact:

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The **Scottish Co-production Network** is free and open to anyone who is interested in co-production in Scotland. As a member of the network, you will be invited to learning events, network meetings and be able to take part in discussions and information sharing on the website. In order to ensure the network is effective in developing practice around co-production in Scotland, members are encouraged to contribute to the network by sharing their learning and experience through the online discussions, attending meetings and sharing useful information and case studies.

Visit us online: www.coproductionscotland.org.uk

The Network is supported by the Scottish Community Development Centre. You can get in touch with SCDC about the Scottish Co-production Network by emailing info@scdc.org.uk or by visiting www.scdc.org.uk.