

Community Development Values and Commitment

Community Development workers support individuals, groups and organisations using certain core values and commitments, which underpin their work:

Values

Social Justice – enabling people to meet their human rights and other basic needs, to have greater control over the decision-making processes which affect their lives.

Participation – facilitating democratic involvement by people in the issues which affect their lives based on full citizenship, autonomy, shared power, skills, knowledge and experience.

Equality – challenging the attitudes of individuals, and the practices of institutions and society which discriminate and marginalise people.

Learning – recognising the skills, knowledge and expertise that people contribute and develop by taking action to tackle social, economic, political and environmental problems.

Co-operation – working together to identify and implement action, based on mutual respect of diverse cultures and contributions.

Commitments

Challenging – discrimination and oppressive practices within organisations, institutions and communities.

Developing – practice and policy.

Encouraging – networking and connections between communities and organisations.

Ensuring – access and choice for all groups and individuals within society.

Influencing – policy and programmes from a community perspective.

Prioritising – the issues of concern to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

Promoting – social change that is long-term and sustainable.

Reversing – inequality and the imbalance of power relationships within Society.

Supporting – community led collective action.