

CAEC

The Newsletter of Community Audit & Evaluation Centre

December 2010

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Manchester
Metropolitan
University

COMMUNITY
AUDIT &
EVALUATION
CENTRE

CAEC

welcome & news

Centre Director, Carol Packham

Welcome to our new look Centre newsletter, which will provide you with an overview of our recent and ongoing work. Much of this work has developed from our initial involvement in the Active Learning for Active Citizenship pilots now involving:

-the Government's 18 project National Take Part Pathfinder programme, of which we have been heading up the Salford Pathfinder.

-the newly formed National Take Part Network, a social enterprise membership organisation, on whose board I sit.

-the ESRC funded Taking part? Research capacity building cluster, where I head up the MMU element.

This work has enabled us to continue and develop work with many community partners, and contribute to policy and practice at a local, regional and national level. This term I have continued to take a low carbon footprint approach to disseminating our work by presenting papers at the British Education Research Association Conference (Warwick) and the Collaborative Action Research Network conference (Cambridge).

We also continue to encourage people to make links to MMU and Higher Education through the accreditation of community based MMU modules.

The Centre also undertakes participatory research, evaluation and training through our team of CAEC associates. Further information can be found via our website or from the Centre Co-ordinator Katherine Roycroft 0161 247 2114.

New ESRC Case Studentship

Interviews were recently held for a new ESRC CASE Studentship in Active Citizenship and Community Empowerment which will start in the New Year. The successful applicant will be working in collaboration with the Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association (Manchester) on a project exploring the potential for small community based groups to support the requirements of young people and community members as volunteers, and active citizens within and on behalf of their localities.



Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association is a registered charity that has been working within an inner city area of Manchester for almost 30 years. As a small, local and volunteer based organisation it has a long standing commitment to self help and local capacity building. Many of its small team of workers were first involved as service users and are now volunteers. The Association has a long standing relationship with the Youth and Community work team at MMU, offering student placements, and also putting practice examples into the course.

CAEC

news and events

Red Pepper Event 2010

Colleagues were invited to a day of discussion and writing on how the new Coalition Government's policies and cuts will affect local communities. 30 people from a range of Community and Voluntary Sector groups, academics along with Red Pepper editors/writers attended and produced a series of themes for a special edition of Red Pepper focussing on what is happening in the sector.



For further information about current and future issues please visit:
www.redpepper.org.uk

Research Seminar 2010

As part of MMU's Institute of Education Research Seminar Series, Professor Marjorie Mayo, Goldsmiths, University of London; Zoraida Mendiwelo-Bendek, University of Lincoln and Dr Carol Packham, MMU CAEC produced a presentation to reflect the latest findings from the Taking part? ESRC capacity building cluster.

Carol Packham gave an overview at the seminar of the context and work to date of the capacity building cluster, including: an overview of the previous research and the focus for the ESRC research; links to the national Takepart

network and Pathfinders; a discussion of the approach and methodology, methods and some examples of research being undertaken; what has come out of it so far and the dilemmas faced and opportunities for influence and future research work.

National Conference 2011

There will be a joint conference held on 9 February 2011 between the Taking Part? CBC, the Take Part National Network and the Take part Pathfinder programme to disseminate research findings and good practice and launch the new Takepart website, resources and Learning Framework.

Further information to follow from the Take Part website: www.takepart.org.uk

CAEC Information

For further information and news please visit our website
www.mmu.ac.uk/caec

Please send any future contributions for the newsletter (although it may not always be possible to include everything we receive) to:

Katherine Roycroft
Centre Co-ordinator
k.roycroft@mmu.ac.uk

Next issue Spring 2011

Take Part Salford

Report: Dave Eatock



The Take Part programme began in January 2009 and is due to finish April 2011. The programme is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and delivered by Manchester Metropolitan University and The Community Pride Unit. The programme has also worked with the Gender and Participation Unit in Manchester who have delivered the Gender and Participation work and 'Training the Trainer' courses. There are 18 Pathfinders in the UK. They were established to support Local Authorities with their commitment to National Indicator 4 (% of people who feel they can influence decisions making in their localities) and to share learning and good practice more widely. Take Part is a national network based on the values of Social Justice, Participation, Equality and Co-operation. There are 18 Pathfinders across England.

Since the programme started in January 2009 the Salford Take Part Pathfinder has worked directly with approximately 500 people from all over Salford and engaged a range of partner agencies. Recent activities include:-

Question Time

Take Part Salford worked with the Seedley and Langworthy Trust (SALT) to deliver a series of Salford *Question Time* events. These were held in the Salford Arts Theatre during March and April 2010. Each panel was made up of 3 local councillors from the 3 main political parties in the Salford Cabinet and 2 'celebrity' panellists. Each event also had an independent chairperson. Members of the public had to book a place in advance and could submit questions when they booked their place. Take Part spent a good deal of time negotiating with the political parties before launching the programme and all 3 main parties agreed to nominate councillors to sit on each of the panels. Three of the events were themed (Housing and the Environment, Economy & Unemployment, Education, Children & Young People), the last one dealt with a range of current affairs.



Approximately 340 people attended over the 4 sessions and the feedback from the panel and audience was very positive. Many issues were addressed and the level of debate was excellent. As a result of all the work 16 people have asked to be involved in planning future events in Salford.

This format proved to be an excellent way to enhance the democratic process, encourage the sharing of information and ideas and create a safe space for challenging and constructive public debate about local and national issues.

The Gender Project

The Gender Project has been ongoing in Central Salford and has involved the recruitment and training of local people in participatory research around gender and participation.

The current group will be reporting their findings to 3 Community Committees between November 2010 and January 2011. The 3 Committees are Ordsall and Langworthy, Claremont and Weaste and East Salford. The group are currently running focus groups in Central Salford around gender and participation. Sue Rigg and Kay Fairhurst, from the Neighbourhood Management Team have been involved with this project since it started earlier in the year.



Photo: Participants from Gender Awareness Event 2010

Ongoing work with Deafblind people

There has been ongoing work with Deafblind people and a growing group meets once a month at Pendleton Gateway. Twenty four people are involved in the project, with about fifteen attending meetings regularly. Since the last briefing the project has produced an information leaflet for service providers, a small training video for staff at Salford Royal and a specially adapted Patient Passport for Deafblind people. The group are working closely with the Sensory Team, Salford Royal Hospital and the PCT to improve access to service and information. The group hopes to launch a new information programme for newly registered Deafblind people in Spring 2011.

Training the Trainer

In January 2010 The Gender and Participation Unit delivered a 'Training for Trainers' course at St George's Resource Centre. This course was well received and another one has just been delivered in November.



Carol Packham presents certificate to a participant on the community researcher training programme

Weaste School of Participation

Over the last few months Take Part have been working in Weaste recruiting people for a geographical School of Participation which is due to run from November/December to January. The programme hopes to recruit 15 participants.

School of Participation for People with Learning Difficulties

The School of Participation for People with Learning Disabilities in Supported Housing started in April and was completed in November. The Programme has worked with 7 Supported Housing schemes and a total of 15 individuals. The report on this piece of work will be published in the next newsletter and via the citizen network bulletins. The programme worked with the Learning Disabilities Team, the Supported Housing Team at Social Services and IAS. The two issues currently being addressed are: the need for more communication training and support for staff and the potential isolation of those living in Supported Housing.

School of Participation Refugees and People Seeking Asylum

Since the last briefing the Take Part programme has completed the School of Participation with Refugees and People Seeking Asylum. There were 17 people on the programme and this group continues to meet twice a month at the Pendleton Gateway on a Saturday morning. Members of this group are now actively involved in a variety of activities in the city and attend the Multi-Agency Forum that deals with Asylum and Refugee issues and the Police Independent Advisory Group – IAG. The group ran an event during Refugee Week and are now preparing an event for Black History Month. During this programme Take Part worked with Salix Homes, three private housing providers and the police to address some serious issues relating to hate crime.



Photo: Colleagues from the School of Participation

Community Governance Project

Since the last briefing Take Part have been working with local people involved in the Community Governance project. This has resulted in a training programme for those interested in taking up civic and civil governance roles in Salford.

Take Part Conference

Planning is currently underway to deliver a Take Part Conference to be held in January 2011 at Salford University (see back page for further details). This conference will give everyone who has been involved in Take Part an opportunity to celebrate achievements, showcase good work, share learning and explore ways in which the work of Take Part can continue in Salford especially in the current climate. The conference will have keynote speakers (Ed Cox, Hazel Blears, Professor Martin Hall and Anne Marie Dean) and will give people the opportunity to discuss and debate what the implications of Big Society may be for Salford. The final part of the day will take the Salford Question Time format and we hope that as before we will be able to have the support of the City Council and the presence of the Lead Member on the panel. The conference is being partly sponsored by Salford University.

TAKE PART CONFERENCE

Monday, 24 January 2011

9.30am-4.00pm

Salford University

'Take Part or Be Taken Apart?'
Addressing the big issues in the current political and economic climate

Keynote Speakers:
Ed Cox, Hazel Blears, Professor Martin Hall
and Anne Marie Dean

For further information and a booking form please contact Community Pride 0161 236 9321 (extn 3) or visit:
www.takepartsalford.org.uk

The Take Part National Network is a not-for-profit organisation made up of members from voluntary sector bodies, universities and specialist groups working across the UK who are committed to strengthening democracy, promoting the independent role of civil society and facilitating civil and civic participation within a social justice framework. The Network aims to achieve this through:

- Promoting community based active learning for active citizenship
- Gathering, producing and sharing research evidence, and information informing and influencing social policy and practice.

The current Take Part Network (TPN) grew from the ALAC (active learning for active citizenship) initiative set up by the then Home Office in 2003 and ran until 2006. It became clear through the life of the initiative that the networking between hubs was very valuable, and consequently, when the initiative ended the Take Part network continued in an informal, but effective way, developing new work, promoting the Take Part Framework approach and contributing to new developments in the work at both local and regional levels.

Much work was put into the development of the first phase of the TPP programme, with network members leading or partnering in the majority of the new pathfinders. Similarly, the network is involved in the REPs and other developments such as the Regional Take Part Champions.

At a national level the network continues to be involved in steering groups and alliances, in particular those linked to the National Empowerment Partnership and Take Part. During 2009 three of the network members, Lincoln, Manchester Metropolitan and London universities, with the network secured funding from the ESRC for a major Third Sector research project centred on active learning for active citizenship.

Further information from the website www.takepartnetwork.org

ESRC TAKING PART CAPACITY BUILDING CLUSTER



Taking Part? was established in 2008 to work with third sector organisations to develop high quality research around active citizenship and community empowerment. This is a partnership between researchers from The University of Lincoln, Goldsmiths, University of London and Manchester Metropolitan University - funded by the Economic & Social Research Centre (ESRC), The Office for the Third Sector and the Barrow Cadbury Trust. The cluster is one of three national clusters linked with the new National Centre for Third Sector Research.

Research Themes

The Cluster's research will focus upon research questions concerned with the engagement and empowerment of active citizens and volunteers; social inclusion/combating social exclusion, enabling different voices to be heard, and promoting community cohesion and social solidarity within and between communities.

WAS IT WORTH IT?

Jamie Arrowsmith



The 'Was it Worth It?' research placement was developed, in conjunction with the Community Audit and Evaluation Centre (CAEC) based at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO), to explore the effectiveness of the *Community Grants – Project Towpath* initiative.

The Towpath initiative, funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), is part of a wider scheme known as the 'Community Grants Programme' which seeks to support smaller Third Sector organisations with close links to excluded and disadvantaged communities. 'Project Towpath' provides grants of up to £12,000 to small voluntary sector groups based in Greater Manchester.

**For further information
about the ESRC
project and other Third
Sector Research
please go to:**

www.tsrc.ac.uk
www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk

The projects and groups supported use innovative solutions and methods to engage the hardest to reach people to make the positive steps needed to become "job ready". They help break down social, cultural and confidence barriers which stand in the way of sustainable employment. 9

ESRC TAKING PART CAPACITY BUILDING CLUSTER (cont'd)

Key Findings

-Through this investment more than 1000 learners (across 63 projects – eventually 43) were supported via opportunities provided by Towpath-funded organisations.

-The important role of small community based groups is evident, for enabling the skill and confidence development of community members, identifying and meeting local needs, engaging ‘excluded groups and individuals’ and as a source of innovation and local capacity building.

-The majority of participants felt they had benefited in a number of ways as a result of the initiative – particularly in terms of building confidence and self-esteem, the opportunity to meet new people, learning new skills e.g. gardening and planning a future e.g. enrolling at University and various training programmes, entering employment, joining a volunteering scheme

-Wider outcomes have been apparent, such as the progression of learners to become more engaged and active citizens, e.g. as volunteers and local representatives, and networking of local groups and services.

-Issues of recruitment and retention were an issue – engaging learners from excluded communities and maintaining regular attendance was a challenge but one which organisations overcame through compromise and flexibility

-Organisations perceived Project Towpath as being a valuable and rewarding experience, primarily because of the new work the fund had enabled, and the impact that these groups subsequently perceived in the learners they had engaged with.

-The notion of developing organisational capacity amongst smaller third sector groups emerged as one of the key aspects of the project. Smaller groups such as those targeted by Project Towpath struggle in terms of planning and securing funding as they lack capacity

-As a result, Towpath was not merely about providing funding to support learners, but about developing the ability of the local not-for-profit sector to access other funding streams, and to develop the competencies and experiences that would make more sustainable practices a possibility.

-Groups valued the unique developmental support that was given in the production of funding bids to Towpath, (e.g. by initial exploratory visits) and follow up that enabled them to reapply if they were initially unsuccessful, or to complete monitoring requirements.

For a full copy of the report please visit the CAEC website www.mmu.ac.uk/caec

Empowering refugee and asylum seeker communities Green Nyoni

This research explores the role of membership networks and how they can best support the interests of organisations and under-represented groups. The principle case study for this research is the work of the Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN) but other networks will also be explored for comparative analysis.

This three year study aims to explore ways of increasing the empowerment of refugees, asylum seekers and the under-represented groups within these communities by encouraging them to have a say in the way the organisation develops.

ESRC TAKING PART CAPACITY BUILDING CLUSTER (cont'd)

It is hoped members will engage in action research as a way of eliciting their perceptions and reflections about the support network, the ways in which they engage with it and the ways in which it might be improved. As a result it is hoped participants will feel empowered to have a voice in the function of MRSN, and consequently use this knowledge to participate in the communities in which they live.



All the organisations were asked what they felt was currently working and what wasn't working in order to identify a clear set of themes to develop research questions from. To date a number of interviews and focus groups have been undertaken with staff, trustees and Refugee organisations. The formative findings have so far proved both interesting and challenging to the organisation.

The major issue identified was the need to increase funding for a number of existing projects as well as for some new ones. These centre around the immigration advice centre, the ESOL classes and youth development. The relationship between staff and trustees was also highlighted as a complex issue as there is currently a lot of misunderstanding regarding the roles of the trustees

Rise and Shine

Hannah Berry

Hannah Berry is currently working with the Gender and Participation Unit (GAP) investigating: 'The meaning and manifestations of empowerment in diverse grassroots women's organisations – how is personal and collective empowerment experienced and harnessed for social and political gains.' Her field work includes facilitating a group of women asylum seekers through the Rise and Shine advocacy project, aiming to work with the group to increase understanding of the issues faced by women asylum seekers and refugees among those who provide services to this community or play a role in developing policy which touches them in some way.

Community Researchers:
Focus Group Training



This autumn, as part of the Take Part programme, Ruth Rosselson from the Gap Unit held a training course for community researchers on holding focus groups. The group of participants, all currently living in Salford, was mixed and very motivated. Five sessions were delivered overall, covering the background to focus groups, and the skills and techniques necessary for running a good focus group.

Participants recruited for their own focus groups, which focused on the motives for and barriers to community participation. A final report, using the information gathered from the focus groups, and research and analysis undertaken by community researchers earlier in the year, will be presented by the group at the Take Part conference in Salford (Jan 2011) and disseminated to Salford's community committees and voluntary sector organisations.

Take Part or be Taken Apart

Addressing the big issues in the current political and economic climate.

A one day conference highlighting the achievements, opportunities and challenges of the Salford Take Part Pathfinder programme.



Monday 24th January 2011

9:30am - 4:00pm

Lady Hale Building, Salford University

- Guest speakers
- Workshops
- Networking
- Question Time
- Celebrating
- Sharing



Anne-Marie Dean,
Department for
Communities
and Local
Government



Ed Cox,
Institute for
Public Policy
Research



Martin Hall,
Vice Chancellor,
University of
Salford



Hazel Blears,
MP

For a booking form please go to our website:

www.takepartsalford.org.uk

For more information please contact
Community Pride: 0161 236 9321 (ex. 3),
ociak@church-poverty.org.uk

Statutory Sector: £25, Take Part Participants: Free
Crèche available

