# What is Community Development?



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**Introduction**

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| 2 men and a woman standing in front of a house, a church and a tree, representing their community.  The people are from different races and have different physical abilities | **Community development** is when people work together to make things better for their community. |
| A group of people sitting round a table working together.  They share an ethnic identityA mao of an area with graphics highlighting some of the different buildings that are important to people like the post office, library, cafe, church and day centre.  In the centre is a picture of a man pointing to himself with the words "My House" | **Community** is a group of people who live in an area or who have something in common.  Services sometimes talk about **geographical communities**, **communities of interest** and **communities of identity**  **A geographical community** is a group of people who live in an area. That could be a town, a village, or a country.  A **community of interest** is a group of people who share hobbies or who do similar things like a fishing group or an online gaming group.  A **community of identity** is a group of people who have things about themselves in common like disability, sex, gender, race, or religion. |
| A group of people standing in front of an image of the world | Community development is a way of working that happens all around the world. |
| A group of community members and a group of professionals standing talking and shaking hands | It is based on the idea that unfairness, discrimination, and inequality cannot be fixed by the government or by people who run services like the Council, NHS, or police on their own.  Services should work with communities. |
| A group of disabled people standing in front of a whiteboard.  The whiteboard has the words Power, Involvement, Action written on it | The important values of community development are:   * communities having the power to make things happen * communities being involved in saying how things should be done * making sure everyone can get involved * communities being able to choose and control what they do * working together with others |

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| A group of women standing in front of a white board with their fists in the air | To make this happen we need to:   * build strong community groups and organisations * help people develop their skills or learn new skills * make sure communities know about the opportunities there are to let people in power know what they think |

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| A group of people sitting together at a table with thumbs up A person with their finger pointing upwards and a light bulb image beside their head | Community development happens when someone gets people excited about an idea and encourages other people in the community to help them to do something to make things better.  Sometimes when people who are not part of a group have an idea, they start up a new group with people who share their idea. |

## Making stronger communities

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| A person looking worried.  The thought bubbles above her head show money and food  A group of strong people standing beside the law | Great strengths and knowledge can be found in communities.  Sometimes it can be difficult for people to put these strengths to use when they are a carer for someone, if they are worried about things like money or their health, or when things in their community change quickly.  Community development workers or organisations can help communities to take their ideas forward and use some of the laws that have been put in place to give communities more power. |

## How does community development happen?

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| Two protestors holding signsA person helping someone else | The need for change often comes from communities or community groups.  People who are experienced and trained in supporting community development can help. |
| A group of people sitting around a round table Someone helping another person with some paperworkA group of community members and a group of professionals standing talking and shaking hands | This includes:   * helping people to come together to decide what they want to change and finding ways of doing it * helping people learn new skills, find out more and become more confident * helping people to understand and do something about **social exclusion** and unfairness * supporting community groups to work well and to make sure they represent the views of their community * supporting community groups to manage their money, follow the law and run their group well * supporting community groups to get involved in talking to decision makers like the Council and the NHS to help decide how services should be run |
| Isolated 1 | **Social exclusion** is when some groups of people find it harder to access services because of things like their age, disability, race or where they live. |

## Where do community development workers work?

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| A group of people including a council worker, nurse, firefighter, police officer, doctorA community member and housing officer standing together surrounded by pictures of different types of houses | In Scotland, skilled community development workers can be found in lots of community groups and organisations like:   * Housing Associations * Councils – usually called Community Learning and Development Teams * **Community Planning Partnerships** * The NHS * Charities and organisations working in communities.   **Community Planning Partnerships** bring together public bodies like the Council, NHS, police, and fire service to plan services for local communities.  People in other jobs can learn from the community development approach and work in ways that help people get involved in having a say. |