



Partnership working for the community

Effective partnership working allows public sector providers, communities and partner organisations to operate more effectively together. Working well in partnership means thinking and behaving differently. SOLACE Enterprises can offer an innovative approach known as OpenStrategy to help achieve this. This simple system addresses power imbalances and defines the mix of strategic and community partnerships involved in a project. It is easily understood and communicated to a wide range of people working in very different organisations.

Target Users:

- mature partnerships looking for innovation
- newly formed partnerships working on a community agenda
- partnerships reviewing their purpose and focus

Objectives:

Community engagement

- encourage involvement of community groups
- provide a reality check
- help the public sector to assess the value of community engagement

Effectiveness and efficiency

- encourage better use of time and resources
- enable organisations to evaluate the impact of their work in terms of community benefits and outcomes
- identify duplication of effort

- support an effective scrutiny process

Communications

- provide a structured approach to assembling knowledge on projects, actions and impacts on communities
- provide accessible information about neighbourhoods
- enhance communication between stakeholders

Facilitation:

OpenStrategy is run by a group of skilled and experienced facilitators who have supported these programmes for a range of authorities.

It includes:

- free 1 hour introductory presentation on the principles of the approach
- a half day workshop for lead stakeholders focusing on an identified issue which leads to an understanding of how to apply OpenStrategy as well as tools to help multi-agency working
- provision of an experienced facilitator to work with the partners to define a package tailored to suit individual client needs and set up the OpenStrategy site
- training for in-house facilitators to support OpenStrategy
- on-going support as required.

For further information please contact the Resource Centre. You can either phone on 0845 601 0649 or email resource.centre@solaceenterprises.com To find out more about SOLACE Enterprise and our full range of consultancy services see www.solaceenterprises.com

