



## Principles of Representation at CPP

This document is for all CPP partners, whether representing or being represented, at all levels within the CPP structure. It may also be of interest to other stakeholders.

The CPP Partnership Agreement was adopted in May 2009. Under the new structure partner organisations are regularly required to represent each other at Management Committee, Thematic Partnerships, Local Community Planning level and at other strategic partnerships.

In order for this to work partners must be confident that they are fully informed of any discussions taking place and are able to feed into any debate. It is essential that information flows in both directions.

### **If you are involved in Community Planning, at any level, you must demonstrate representation and ensure accountability:-**

Clear lines of **accountability** allow representatives to speak with real authority. This does not mean that all decisions are subject to a consensus, at times a representative will have to present diverse, sometimes conflicting, views. Representatives should be prepared and able to explain decisions and actions.

### **Partners in a representation role should:-**

- put into place reporting mechanisms that support the flow of information without creating unnecessary burdens;
- make arrangements that enable all partners to participate as fully as possible;
- ensure there is clarity about when one partner has a clear mandate to represent and when they do not.
- be clear about who they are representing

### **Other key principles of representation**

- **Equality** – place equality, diversity and inclusiveness at the core of what they do
- **Leadership** – representatives will need to think and act strategically
- **Openness** – be as open as possible in all dealings and relationships
- **Purpose** – be clear about objectives and contributions – supporting them with a strong evidence base
- **Sustainability** – ensuring the continuation of the collective voice
- **Values** – identify and build on the values of community planning

It is not intended to prescribe how partners should organise themselves. However, a guiding set of principles should help partners develop arrangements that strengthen their representation, widen participation and

ensure transparency for other organisations taking part in events and meetings at which the representative is present.

### **Annual Review 2009/10**

As part of the Annual review we will be asking partners to demonstrate

- how they are ensuring information flows within and between organisations
- that arrangements are in place to ensure that they are represented as appropriate in the CPP structure and associated strategic partnerships
- what they do to promote community planning

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