



**Voluntary, Community & Faith
Partnership (VCFP)**

Free Skilling Up Sessions

Community Groups



Session 1 - Creative Consultation

Thursday 14th February (10-1pm) including a working lunch

Frustrated with traditional information gathering research and evaluation methods? Do you want a 'tool bag' of practical ways to consult with residents and service-users? The session is based upon the principles of participatory action research (PAR), a prominent approach to community development. Using tools such as 'solution trees' and 'push pull', PAR puts the research process in the hands of the community supported by the researcher(s) as a facilitator resulting in a plan of action. You will never use a questionnaire again!

Session 2 - Introduction to Community Engagement

Tuesday 26th February (10-1pm) including a working lunch

What is community engagement? Explore the difference between consultation, engagement and participation by examining the works of 'key thinkers' such as Arnstein. This will be linked to Oldham and how embedding community engagement in activities can enhance funding applications and support commissioning tenders.

The working lunches include a LAA (Local Area Agreement) 'speed dating' session introducing experienced Local Area Agreement delivery organisations to those seeking to secure contracts.

Session 3 - Introduction to the Oldham Partnership (LSP) and the Local Area Agreement

TBC

The session covers the national background and rationale of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) and the structure of the Oldham Partnership. This will allow participants to explore opportunities for influencing local priorities, improve their voice in shaping services and securing funding.

Session 4 - Community Development Worker Master-Class

Monday 10th March (10-12pm) followed by lunch

An opportunity for Development Workers to gain an update on Oldham's current and emerging themes and strategies including the Community Engagement Strategy and the developing Cohesion Strategy. There will be an opportunity for participants to develop practical consultation tools, find out about further training opportunities and network with fellow-workers.

There is no charge for attendance, but places are strictly limited. To book a place on the sessions, please contact:

Clare Taylor on 0161 633 6222

Email: ce2@vaoldham.org.uk

Deadline for Session 1 booking Monday 11th February, Session 2 booking 21st February & Session 4 booking 6th March

Manchester Chambers is wheelchair accessible. If you have any other requirements, including dietary, please let us know at the time of booking.

Future Diary Date: Voluntary Sector Fair — Tuesday 18th March (Smokies Park Hotel) 10 - 4pm

A day of master-classes for voluntary and community organisations interested in community development, engagement and representation.

Attend as many or as few sessions as you would like. Representatives of the Voluntary and Community Faith Partnership (VCFP) will be on hand to offer an update of current activities.