Belfast

Community Planning

Resource Audit

Committee skills

Bookkeeping

Grant applications

Governance

Project Planning

Health and Safety

Community Development

Training Toolkit

Foreword

**As Chairperson of the Development
Committee, I very much welcome the
publication of this Community Development
Toolkit and I commend Community Services
for taking the initiative in developing such a
valuable resource for the community sector
across Belfast.**

The toolkit is a training resource which aims to provide
a framework for enhancing and developing the skills of
the community sector across the city. Its production is
timely given the changing circumstances that communities
and community groups currently find themselves in.
The range of challenges which our recent economic
difficulties present in many of the poorest communities
in the city cannot be overstated.

This publication will assist the council in implementing
our recently published Community Development
strategy. As the strategy states "It is long accepted
that community development plays an important role
in promoting active involvement of local communities
in addressing local problems of disadvantage, poverty
and inequality. Without it the work of any organisation
seeking to deliver change in local areas becomes much
more difficult." (pg4 para 2).

There is increasing recognition around the importance
Community Development plays in enabling supporting,
and encouraging communities.

The Community Development Toolkit will assist in this
process by providing a best practice framework for
enhancing the skills of the sector and providing best
practice examples. The information is presented in an
accessible style and is ideal for Community Development
Professionals who are working with people based in
local communities, particularly those who are "new" to
community development. It can also be used for people
who need a quick refresher. You will find a wide variety
of learning tools which can be used to develop, support
and strengthen community groups.

I recognise the enormous contribution that community
based organisations make to our city and its citizens
and I am sure this toolkit will contribute to and support
the work of the council in working alongside local
people to meet needs and foster stronger, more
sustainable and more confident communities.

I would like to thank all those who helped prepare
this publication and I am sure that the publication will
provide a valuable resource in facilitating the future
development of communities across the city.

Alderman Christopher Stalford

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An introduction to your Community Development Training Toolkit

This toolkit has been designed by our Community Resources Unit.

It's intended as a practical resource for you as a community development professional to assist you in your work with local communities.

The toolkit aims to provide a "holistic" approach to helping groups and individuals to develop their ideas and activities. The toolkit is informed by organisational development principles and community development practice, and many of the exercises have been tried and tested in a range of settings and organisations.

The toolkit is a series of action learning sessions designed to provide Community Development Professionals with a 'jargon free' set of exercises to help lead to the following outcomes:

- assisting individuals and groups in clarifying their role and purpose.

- assisting individuals and groups to identify the knowledge and skills required to manage and direct their activities to encourage "best practice".

- assisting individuals and groups to address any skills and knowledge gaps.

- assisting individuals and groups through a process which will help them to work in a coherent and planned manner.

We want you to share your experience and learning as a result of using this toolkit, so that we can continue to improve our community development practice, so please send any feedback you have to **community@belfastcity.gov.uk,** or contact Bill McClinton on ext 3593 or Garret O'Fachtna on ext 3771.