



# Communitybuilders 'Real Help for Communities' Presentation

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- Communitybuilders is a **£70m programme**
- The programme will strengthen the resilience of multi-purpose, inclusive community-led organisations operating at the neighbourhood level (sometimes referred to as Community Anchors).
- These organisations;
  - provide a place for community activities to take place
  - run local services
  - stimulate community involvement and enterprise
  - generate independent sources of income
- Communitybuilders will directly benefit around **three hundred organisations** across England over the next three years with many more sharing the best practice lessons.

## What type of organisations will Communitybuilders support?

The key features of the sort of organisations that the Communitybuilders programme will support are:

- **Community controlled** by local residents and/or representative of local groups
- Address their **neighbourhood's needs** in a multi-purpose, holistic way
- **Inclusive** of all sections of their community, including marginalised groups.
- **Empowering** by facilitating and supporting the community development and enterprise in their area.
- Provide a **voice** for their community



Cambridge House is a multipurpose voluntary organisation working in Southwark, South London to alleviate the local effects of poverty and to support social change.

Operate as a local neighbourhood resource and development agency, providing support to local community groups, voluntary organisations and community initiatives.

Services include:

**Advocacy** - Taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain the services they need.

**After School Club** - The service is provided for parent/carers of children with severe learning disabilities who do not have access to after-school provision at their child's school

**Southwark LinK** - Facilitating the Southwark Local Involvement Network to monitor and review the commissioning and provision of care services

**Nursery** – For local families

**Young Persons Project** – With the specific aim of increasing intercultural dialogue between young people both within the borough and internationally.

## Differing types of anchor organisations

- Communitybuilders understands that no two areas are the same. Communities have differing needs and resources that will affect what a Community Anchor looks like and how it operates.
- Under our definition the following types of organisation may be considered eligible:
  - Community Centres
  - Multi-purpose settlements and social action centres
  - Development Trusts and Community Enterprises
  - Village or Community Halls
  - Building Preservation Trusts
  - Community Land Trusts

## How the Programme will be delivered

- The programme will be delivered by a **national partner organisation** which will use its knowledge and experience of the third sector and community organisations to deliver the programme in the most effective manner.
- We are currently evaluating bids from organisations wishing to become the national partner.
- The national partner will be appointed and the programme will become open to applications in **Spring 2009**.

- There will be three main types of funding and support available throughout the project cycle;
  - **Pre-feasibility:** support grants and advisory services to improve governance and management capacity, strengthen financial systems, foster partnerships and provide coaching and mentoring
  - **Feasibility:** to bring proposals to full investment readiness and sustain them through the development process
  - **Capital Investment:** through a mix of financial and funding tools to develop, improve and acquire assets and enterprise to secure future sustainability.

## Types of funding available

- Organisations can enter the process at any stage as we understand that some proposals will be more developed than others.
- Communitybuilders will look to support organisations that are looking to increase their long term sustainability.
- The programme recognises that different needs and opportunities exist in different areas and the programme will not dictate a standardised or catch-all model of sustainability to end-users.

## Types of funding available

- Communitybuilders will provide funding via a **mixture of grants and loans**.
- We want to anchor organisations to move away from **grant dependence** and consider other ways of financing themselves.
- Loans will help anchor organisations through the process towards increased independence.
- Communitybuilders loans will be based on **patient capital** approaches including;
  - longer repayment terms,
  - lower interest rates,
  - using increased social benefit as a means to pay back part of some loans.

- The Communitybuilders programme recognises that anchor organisations often can not often 'go it alone', both in terms of financial stability and ensuring full support from the communities they serve.
- We wish to see supported organisations working in partnership with other important stakeholder organisations.
- Where possible supported organisations will have the support of the local authority and other statutory organisations (such as Parish Councils).
- In many cases Communitybuilders funding will form part of a package of finance sourced by the support organisation from a range of different sources

- Details about the programme including the announcement of the national partner, full eligibility criteria and application process may be found on the websites of Communities and Local Government and the Office of the Third Sector;
- <http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/thirdsector/communitybuilders/>
- [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/community\\_action/communitybuilders.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/community_action/communitybuilders.aspx)
- For more examples of community anchor organisations and their benefits please visit the Community Alliance website ([www.comm-alliance.org](http://www.comm-alliance.org)) and download their booklet “An Ever-Evolving Story”.
- If you require further information please contact;

[communitybuilders@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:communitybuilders@communities.gsi.gov.uk)