

Transformation through community anchors

Community Alliance



- A partnership of three organisations: *bassac*, Community Matters and the Development Trusts Association
- Focused on bringing about social transformation through giving its members enhanced access to networks, services and products

Our vision

A community anchor in every neighbourhood.

What are community anchors?

Community anchors are independent community-led organisations. They are multi-purpose and provide holistic solutions to local problems and challenges, bringing out the best in people and agencies. They are there for the long term, not just the quick fix. Community anchors are often the driving force in community renewal.

Characteristics of a community anchor organisation:

- 1 A building: a physical space which is community controlled, owned or led
- 2 A focus for services and activities meeting local need
- 3 A vehicle for local voices to be heard, needs to be identified and for local leaders and community groups to be supported
- 4 A platform for community development, promoting cohesion while respecting diversity
- 5 A home for the community sector which is supportive of the growth and development of community groups
- 6 A means of promoting community led enterprise, generating independent income while having a social, economic and environmental impact.
- 7 A forum for dialogue within communities, creating community led solutions.
- 8 A bridge between communities and the state which promotes and brings about social change.



Bradford Trident

Tim Smith

To give you an idea, here are some roles a **community anchor** can play.

Role One: Service provision – providing local services and acting as a gateway to helping people get access to the other services they need.

Rural Hampshire: Horndean Community Association delivers a broad programme of services for children and young people, including arts workshops, youth drama, a forum for children under 10 and pre-school activities. In addition, the Association boasts a programme of community activities and services for all, including a 55 Club,



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Barton Hill Settlement



Barton Hill Settlement

car boot sales, floristry classes and line dancing. It has been serving the local area for over 50 years and in all, has 165,000 people coming through its Merchistoun Hall doors every year.

Visit the website: www.merchistounhall.co.uk

Role Two: Resourcing – helping to bring money and opportunities into a neighbourhood from the local authority, external funders and other agencies.

Hull: Goodwin Development Trust is a community led, charitable organisation with a turnover of more than £9 million. Over the past 12 years it has transformed Hull's Thornton estate, providing services and training for local residents and supporting enterprise. It has brought in and developed resources to create an asset base

worth over £6 million, with 38 sites and more than 300 staff.

Visit the website: www.goodwintrust.org

Role Three: Advocacy – calling for changes in policy and practice; acting as a catalyst of change in public services and regeneration programmes; helping people to get involved in groups and have a say about local issues and services; mobilising local democracy.

Bristol: the Barton Hill Settlement supports local people and groups through its community work in having influence and control over local activities and services. It also advocates in response to local needs and uses feedback to shape and inform policy with the local authority in, for example, drug use prevention, child care services and community cohesion issues.

Visit the website:

www.bartonhillsettlement.org.uk

Role Four: Supporting community organisations – through community capacity building, helping groups develop their skills, organisation, representation and involvement.

Camberwell, London: Cambridge House, a centre with an annual turnover of over £2 million, provides local community groups with



Barton Hill Settlement



Community Matters members



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Barton Hill Settlement

accommodation for hot-desking, offices and a range of meeting and activity rooms, support services, mentoring, skills development, access to funding, partnerships and training.

Visit the website:

www.cambridgehouseandtalbot.org.uk

Role Five: Strengthening community participation – supporting active citizenship and contributing to civil renewal.

East Durham: Acumen Community Enterprise Development Trust was granted funding for a scheme called Bloomin' Marvellous, with

the aim of engaging people into learning, employment and enterprise in the villages of Horden and Easington. The project sought to combat social problems faced in Easington and successfully gave the community a sense of pride and ownership and encouraged active citizen participation in the planning process. Approximately 5000 volunteers have been proactive in this initiative, which has galvanised the community within this deprived area and transformed the environment for residents, winning a Bronze medal in Northumbria in Bloom 2006.

Visit the website: www.acumentrust.org.uk



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