

COMPACT FOR LEEDS 2010 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary contains definitions of some terms and concepts you may come across in this document. It is designed to be used as a guide only and by no means claims to be comprehensive nor does it attempt to override any alternative definitions used in other contexts.

It is not possible to agree a definitive definition for some terms and phrases. The reality is that within different organisations and sectors particular meanings have evolved for specific terms. These are often prescribed by external bodies, which means that the option to agree a definitive Glossary for Leeds does not exist at this time.

Active citizenship

Citizens taking opportunities to become actively involved in defining and tackling the problems of their communities and improving their quality of life.

Active Communities

Communities in which citizens are empowered to lead self determined fulfilled lives, and in which everyone regardless of age, race or social background has a sense of belonging and a stake in society.

Asset Transfer

A process by which local assets (usually buildings) currently or formerly managed by local public bodies are handed over to the community to manage.

Community

A specific group of people who all hold something in common. Community has tended to be associated with two key aspects: firstly people who share locality or geographical place; secondly people who share an interest or identity.

Community action (also sometimes referred to as Social Action)

The campaigning tactics of community groups that are in disagreement with an official agency. Tactics include demonstrations, public meetings and using the media.

Community Activists

People who are active on a voluntary basis in the development of their communities.

Community Anchors

Independent community led organisations with multi-purpose functions, which provide a focal point for local communities and community organisations, and for community services. They often own and manage community assets, and support small community organisations to reach out across the community.

Community Capacity Building

Capacity building supports individuals, groups and organisations to enable them to play a part in the development and regeneration of their communities and to engage more effectively with public bodies. It is about building skills and competencies and is increasingly being used amongst policy makers and managers to increase their understanding of communities.

Communities and Local Government (CLG)

The government department that aims to foster prosperous and cohesive communities, offering a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all. Information about activities and policies. It sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue.

Community engagement

The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well being of those people.

Communities of interest

Groups of people who share an identity, for example the Afro-Caribbean community, or those who share an experience, for example the homeless community.

Community Development

An activity that confronts disadvantage, poverty and exclusion, and promotes values of active citizenship, learning, and community participation.

Community Development Learning

This takes place when individuals and groups/organisations come together to share experience, learn from each other, and develop their skills, knowledge and self-confidence. It is a developmental process that is both a collective and individual experience, based on a commitment to equal partnership between all those involved to enable a sharing of skills, awareness, knowledge, and experience in order to bring about sustainable desired outcomes.

Core Cities

Eight major English cities who have worked together to establish a vision of the role big cities should play in national and regional life. The eight cities are Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield.

Community Enterprise

Combines community-led action with business activities aimed at economic development and social gain. Community enterprises have explicit social aims and are accountable to their communities. They are independent but work in partnership with others.

Community Governance

The involvement of local people and organisations in the way that government and public services are run in their area. It can range from standing for election to parish or district councils, to providing community managed services, or just having a say in local decisions!

Community Groups and Organisations (also know collectively as the Community Sector)

These are located within communities of geography or interest. They are controlled by their users and are usually small and informal with no paid staff.

Community Involvement

This is about involvement in community activities in a variety of different ways. Community involvement often starts with agendas and programmes that originate outside the community.

Community Participation

This is about enabling people to become active partners in the development and regeneration of communities by contributing and sharing in the decisions that affect their lives. Participation should enable people to have a degree of power and control in the processes with which they are involved.

Community Sector

Those organisations active on a local or community level, usually small, modestly funded and largely dependent on voluntary, rather than paid, effort. Can be seen as distinct from the larger, professionally staffed agencies which are most visible in voluntary sector profiles. Hence the phrase 'voluntary and community sector' to encompass the full range.

Community Strategies (also know as Sustainable Community Strategies)

Local Authorities now have to prepare a community strategy for promoting the economic, social and environmental well being of their area and a vision for the future. The expectation is that this will be produced with organisations in the private, public and third sectors.

Community Workers

These undertake community development work as their main role. They may focus on specific issues with communities, e.g. health, or have a generic brief.

Equality

Challenging the attitudes of individuals, and the practices of institutions and society, which discriminate against and marginalise people.

Every Action Counts

An initiative, supported by Defra, and delivered through a consortium of voluntary and community sector organisations which provides advice and support to other VCS organisations looking to reduce their impact on the environment, tackle climate change and improve their local area.

Grassroots Grants

This is a £130 million grants programme running from 2008 – 2011 and co-ordinated nationally by the Community Development Foundation. There is an £80 million small grants fund for community organisations together with £50 million to enable local funders to pull in other money to build up endowments for sustainable funding.

Key Performance Indicator

Financial and non-financial measures used to help an organization define and track progress towards goals. KPIs are frequently used to "value" difficult to measure activities such as the benefits of leadership development, engagement, service, and satisfaction.

Learning

Recognising the skills, knowledge and expertise that people contribute and develop by taking action to tackle social, economic, political and environmental problems. See also community development learning (above).

Local Area Agreements

Statutory three year agreements, between central government and local authorities and their partners, setting out the action they will undertake to achieve the goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy and deliver national outcomes in a way that reflects local priorities.

Local Strategic Partnership

Nationally, Local Strategic Partnerships bring together the different parts of the public sector with the private business, community and voluntary sectors in order to work together more effectively. They are expected to prepare and implement the community strategy and develop targets where there is to be a public service agreement. In Leeds, the Local Strategic Partnership is called the Leeds Initiative.

Mainstreaming

The process of transferring policy, good practice or activity from area-based initiatives or special programmes into the core of mainstream service provision.

Multi-Area Agreements (MAAs) See also LAA.

Are cross-boundary local area agreements (LAA). They bring together key players in flexible ways to tackle issues that are best addressed in partnership – at a regional and sub-regional level. The major issues that MAAs can tackle include skills deficits, housing market imbalances, transport and infrastructure projects and economic development.

National Empowerment Partnership

A national partnership to support the Government's mission to increase levels of participation at local, regional and national levels. The NEP aims to improve the quality, co-ordination and evidence of empowerment across England through supporting regional partnerships. Leeds is part of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Empowerment Partnership.

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs)

RIEPS are in every English region to help councils deliver the ambitious outcomes, set through local area agreements (LAAs), by supporting them in their efforts to become more efficient, innovative and engaged with citizens. Nationally, They harness the expertise of councils to add new capacity to local government in order to accelerate the drive for greater improvement and efficiency.

National Indicators (NI's)

The 198 indicators which form the National Indicator Set which central government uses to performance manage Local Government.

National Support Services Programme

A programme for VCS support providers (infrastructure organisations including community anchors). The mission is to build the capacity of support providers to develop, promote and champion excellence in leadership and governance practices in the third sector.

Parish plans

These are a form of Community Led Plan which determine the future of communities and how they can change for the better. They are documents that set out a vision for the future of a parish and outlines how that can be achieved in an Action Plan.

Participatory Budgeting

Directly involving local people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a defined public budget.

Partnership in meeting public needs

Public bodies' involvement of citizens and communities, within the established democratic framework, in improving the planning and delivery of public services.

Power to Promote Well Being

A new general power that Local Authorities have to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well being of their area.

Primary Care Trust (PCT)

PCTs are free-standing statutory bodies that provide primary and community services and commission secondary (hospital) care on behalf of their local population. In Leeds, this is NHS Leeds.

Public services / Public sector (also referred to as the Statutory Sector)

Delivering services that are wholly or partly funded through taxation. They include national, regional and local government and statutory agencies, like the NHS and Police.

Public Service Agreements (PSAs)

An agreement between Local Authorities and Central Government. Local Authorities will deliver agreed priorities in return for pump priming funds, financial rewards for meeting targets and the removal of some imposed regulations and requirements (such as the requirements to produce some plans).

Regeneration

The process of upgrading an area through social, economic and infrastructure investment and improvement.

Social Capital

The idea of trust and cooperation that can be measured within communities. This is increasingly seen as being of fundamental importance to social inclusion and regeneration programmes.

Social Enterprise (see also Community Enterprise above)

These are usually, but not always, non-profit-distributing enterprises but they take many institutional forms, including voluntary, co-operative, mutual or companies limited by guarantee. They seek high levels of accountability to their stakeholders. Social enterprises are increasingly recognised as part of a crucial third sector, distinguishing them from the public and private sectors.

Social Exclusion

The Government has defined social exclusion as "a shorthand term for what can happen when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown." This is a deliberately flexible definition and the problems listed are only examples. The most important characteristic of social exclusion is that these problems are linked and mutually reinforcing, and can combine to create a complex and fast moving vicious cycle. The term includes poverty and low income, but is broader and addresses some of the wider causes and consequences of poverty.

Social Justice

Enabling people to claim their human rights, meet their needs, and have greater control over the decision-making processes which affect their lives.

Second Tier Organisations

Second tier organisations help voluntary and community organisations with areas of organisation development and management. These can also be known as infrastructure organisations. This can range from funding advice, governance or policy issues to financial controls and trading. E.g. Voluntary Action Leeds, Leeds Voice or Volition.

Stakeholders

Citizens, groups and organisations and others with an interest (stake) in what happens with a project, programme or development.

Statutory authority

An organisation that is required by law to provide public services and receives central or local government funding, for example health authorities and local authorities. In Leeds, the statutory authorities are: Leeds City Council, NHS Leeds (Leeds Primary Care Trust), West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police Authority and West Yorkshire Probation service.

Third sector

This is the generic collective name for voluntary, community, non-government and campaigning organisations as well as charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals.

Third Tier Organisations

Infrastructure organisation which supports other infrastructure (or 'second tier') organisations such as the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum.