

Mapping Community Assets in Wirral

A project is currently underway to explore the contribution that community assets and community-led initiatives in Wirral are making to Public Health outcomes.

Led by the Applied Health and Wellbeing Partnership, with the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University and NHS Wirral collaborating, this project aims to identify successful aspects of community asset delivery that could be replicated elsewhere.

A robust methodology has been developed to ensure that this research provides a representative analysis of the community assets that are present in Wirral.

A database of 65 projects has been developed by the researcher, with information on project specifics including contact details, project description, location, population/s served and funding sources. These projects have been categorised using the Public Health Outcomes Framework, and analysed thematically according to population group and health need.

Projects are further themed by type of approach, including social support, health behaviour change, education and learning and environment. This categorisation process has ensured that the community assets included in this research are representative of those across Wirral, and has enabled the identification of a number of exemplar projects to be evaluated in further detail.

These evaluations will identify how community assets impact health and wellbeing, explore the types of organisation/individuals who run community asset projects, how the projects run, how they are sustained, and if and how they could be replicated elsewhere. The evaluation methodology includes an exploration of social value using Social Return on Investment.

Three project evaluations are underway and nearing completion (due November 2012), with a number of other community asset projects being identified for evaluation in the coming months.

It is anticipated that approximately ten projects will be evaluated for this project, which is due to complete in November 2013.

Please contact Gayle Whelan, Community Asset Research Assistant, for further information on this project G.Whelan@ljmu.ac.uk or 0151 231 4384.

The Applied Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The Applied Health and Wellbeing Partnership is an initiative of NHS Wirral Research & Development Team and Liverpool John Moores University Centre for Public Health. The Partnership supports the development, delivery and evaluation of the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy, through the innovative generation and application of evidence for effective and sustainable health and wellbeing commissioning.