

Learning from EPIC: Getting Active in Your Community

4th Scottish Assembly for Tackling Poverty



Getting Active



- Why get active?
- What we did
- What was achieved
- What else is happening

Why get active?



- Influencing decisions that affect your life is a right – but people who live in low income communities often can't exercise that right
- If people from low income communities are not active, then it is likely that decisions will not reflect their concerns & priorities
- Greater levels of activity leads to improvements not only for communities but for individual wellbeing

What we did



- Training: provided basic training to over over 100 members of community groups – covering anti-poverty policy, decision making processes, rampaging
- Also provided training on getting talking to the media, on specific policy areas, research
- Developed opportunities to engage directly with policy makers through the Tackling Poverty Stakeholders Forum and the Assembly
- Worked in partnership with other organisations to provide support for engagement in national policy

What we achieved



- Provided direct opportunities to engage with policy makers on key policy areas: health inequalities, employability, child poverty, welfare reform
- Brought the experiences of people with experience of poverty into the Scottish Parliament
- Created the basis for real changes in policy – for example Scottish Welfare Fund and NHS 24
- Strengthened the community membership of the Poverty Alliance – creating a stronger network

What we have learned



- There is a great deal of disenchantment with ‘politics’ in disadvantaged communities in Scotland
- There is a need to start from ‘where people are’ – people get active on the things that matter
- There is a need for resources and time to build the opportunities, and confidence, to engage at the national level
- Working in partnership is essential – with other national organisations and with grassroots groups

Key Questions



- What are the barriers that prevent people getting active in their community?
- How can we overcome them?
- What else is going that will support more active communities (Citizens Scotland, Community Development Trusts, etc)?