

Active citizens **building** strong and involved communities

Asset based working

Scrutiny Board 4 Workshop

In April, we asked over a thousand Coventry residents about life in Coventry, from their involvement in the local communities to how they want to contact the Council. Here are some of the key messages.

Residents are keen to get involved in their local communities

2 of 3 

residents agreed the Council should ask local people to do more for themselves.

1 in 4 say they are already fairly or very involved in their local community.

250 respondents gave their contact details to find out more about getting involved.

Respondents were asked how residents might help. Respondents suggested:



“help take care of elderly or vulnerable people”

(n=288)



“help keep the local area clean”

(n=239)



“help keep streets clean / keep people safe”

(n=125)



“be responsible for their own area”

(n=95)

Aims of asset-based working

+encourage

+enable

+empower



active citizens



strong, involved
communities



partners in
reducing demand



better services
for all

Current situation in public services	An asset based approach
Start with what's wrong	Start with the assets in the community
Respond to problems	Identify opportunities and strengths
Provide services to users	Invest in people as citizens
Emphasise the role of agencies	Emphasise the role of civil society
Focus on individuals	Focus on communities/neighbourhoods and the common good
See people as clients and consumers receiving services	See people as citizens and co-producers with something to offer
Treat people as passive and done to	Help people take control of their lives
Fix people	Support people to develop their potential
Implement programme as answer	See people as the answer

Why do we need to change?



Budget cuts across public sector

Opportunity to rethink how things are done

Local drivers for change



Council committed to...

- enable and empower residents, communities and groups to use and develop their own skills and potential to take control over their own lives;
- hold fresh conversations with residents, communities and partners to explore different ways of getting things done.

It's already happening!



People Point



Community
Development
Service



Feeling good
and doing well in
Coventry
Wellbeing Project



KEY QUESTIONS

- How can we work differently with local people?
- How can we work with you and other elected members to take this forward?
- How can we build on and work with elected members' skills and knowledge as community leaders?