

EY2010 EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PROJECT – “ALL IN ONE”

Summary

The regional events programme has the following key Objectives:

- To develop the participation of those experiencing poverty and exclusion (**P&E**) in recording their problems and what does, doesn't and could work to counter them..
- To develop dialogue between those experiencing poverty and exclusion, people working with them and regional and national decision makers on activity to combat poverty and exclusion.
- To document experience of poverty and scope structured solutions to specific problems
- To agree future practical approaches to combating poverty and exclusion

One East Midlands will conduct this project, in partnership with CEFET and EAPN, under the banner of the **Social Inclusion Policy Forum (SIPF)**. This Forum, one of several Policy “spaces” developed by OEM, had its inaugural meeting in July 2009, and hosted the Regional pre-EY2010 Road-show event in September 2009. The Forum is structured on a three-thirds principle: equal representation from people facing P&E; frontline (mainly VCS) practitioners and multi-sectoral decision and policy makers. The informed participation by people facing P&E is facilitated by CEFET, a key SIPF partner, which has developed a Grass Roots Network (GRN) based on its long experience of Local Social Capital work in the most excluded communities in the region. The GRN has regular cycles of meetings and two such cycles will be conducted (and amplified) within this project. The SIPF has Terms of Reference requiring at least one third participation by people facing P&E and has Objectives congruent to those of 2010.

The project will be conducted by mounting a series of 8 local “Festival” events around the region (Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Chesterfield, Mansfield, Boston, Lincoln, Kettering/Corby, Rutland) where local people facing Poverty and Exclusion *record* their story of poverty, its causes, effects, problems and solutions. The recording will be taken through a variety of media and IT platforms.

The material will be collated thematically, (employment, finance, housing, health, urban, rural, disability....) according to the input of the people themselves. This thematic record will be organised by the SIPF into presentations (by participants from the GRN) for a Poverty Convention at which local, regional, national and EU politicians will be asked to hear and respond. This dialogue, along with the collated material, will be organised into a report.

Outcomes will include:

- Improved confidence in individuals who have experienced exclusion and poverty in the value and power of articulating their stories
- Improved understanding of the impact and prevalence of SE and poverty in MPs and local elected members in localities.
- Formal recognition by both grassroots networks and policy makers on the existence of a space for debate on exclusion policy – SIPF
- A body of evidence of the existence of exclusion in localities and across the region
- Tools and resources to aid future inflection of exclusion action
- Active participation of 400 people experiencing SE in activities
- Publicity and reach
- Evaluation of the use and effectiveness of the programme of activities and resulting resources developed.
- Captured EM stories and voices of experience of poverty, and what does, doesn't and could work to counter it.