



Welcome to the Community Health Exchange (CHEX)

The Community Health Exchange (CHEX) is one of the leading agencies in Scotland that provides a resource to support community-led health approaches to health improvement and challenge health inequalities. Initiated in November 1999, we are part of the Scottish Community Development Centre (based in Glasgow). We operate at a strategic and operational level.

Strategically, we promote the benefits of community-led health in national working groups and support CHIs to get their voice heard and their practice acknowledged at a national level.

Operationally, we prioritise work in four main areas: engagement with national policy arena, practice development, networking and provision of information services. Some examples are:

- networking opportunities for CHIs to come together to share information and ideas through seminars at a local level and conferences at a national level.
- facilitate networks of community health initiatives (CHIs) and along with their public sector partners support them to development of good practice and influence health improvement policies.
- capacity building programmes such as 'Health Issues in the Community'; an accredited training initiative to build on people's own experience of health activity to support them via a learning experience to affect health improvement in their own community.
- provide resources on sustaining community-led health initiatives such as the 'Routes to Sustainability' briefing pack
- our fortnightly e-bulletin – CHEX-POINT Snippets – on policy, practice development, funding and training events and quarterly hard-copy newsletter – CHEX-POINT – on priority themes related to community-led health approaches.

CHEX's core programme is funded by NHS Health Scotland (2009-2012). In 2011/2012, we are working closer and more strategically with our national partners – Community Food and Health (Scotland) and Voluntary Health Scotland to deliver on 4 key outcomes to support community and voluntary organisations participation in and influence on health improvement policy and practice.

In addition, CHEX income generates and we tender for contracts and Service Level Agreements related to community development approaches to health improvement. For example contracts on

- training and capacity building
- undertaking facilitation between community-led initiatives and relevant partners
- undertaking action/research
- strengthening networks and networking
- monitoring and evaluation impacts from community-led health

If you are interested in commissioning CHEX on any of the above work, please contact Janet Muir on janet@scdc.org.uk or telephone 0141 222 4842.

More information on CHEX is available at www.chex.org.uk

*The Community Health Exchange (CHEX) is part of the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC).
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