

The ILCM Community Interest Company

Case Study: WCCN

A Community Empowerment Network

West Cornwall Community Network

About WCCN

WCCN is a Community Empowerment Network set up by the Government in 2001 following the publication of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. Since then it has supported over 1,600 organisations in two of Britain's most deprived districts (Penwith and Kerrier). It provides community development support, information, advice and guidance as well as administering small grants schemes.

Its 'Inter-Links' are grass roots forums underpinned by locality meetings in towns and key settlements. These have been so successful that they have now been extended to all parts of Cornwall (a two-tier authority) through the Local Area Agreement.



WCCN's first group of community groups to be accredited by ILCM

WCCN now offers ILCM to all its VCO members. He says, "Our deprived neighbourhoods programme has principally benefited from this approach, but we have also been able to offer ILCM Health Checks to many of our other VCOs."

The Results

Tom says, "In the past we have had significant issues engaging VCOs in some of our most deprived estates, but linking VCO capability development to neighbourhood priorities and small grant funding is bringing tremendous focus to VCO service delivery in those areas.

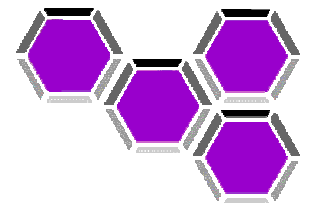
"Not only are our VCOs elated with the results, but so are key neighbourhoods. In just 18 months we have turned around the level of service delivery and community engagement in the Treneere Estate. The Neighbourhood Partnership are delighted."

The ILCM now forms the backbone of the performance management framework for WCCN in terms of its Neighbourhoods Programme.

ILCM and WCCN

WCCN was the first organisation to adopt the Inter-Link Capability Model (ILCM) and the ILCM Health Check system as a means to extend its work in developing the capability and capacity of community and voluntary organisations.

Tom Jane, WCCN Coordinator says, "We needed to go beyond the broad-based but limited support that we were giving VCOs, and with the pressure to become more performance managed we had a big step change to make."



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