

PROFILE



Who we are, how we work

The Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation (NIF) is a national charity specialising in community participation, training and development, and is committed to delivering benefit to disadvantaged communities. We believe that people who live and work in a neighbourhood have the ideas, skills and experience to be centrally involved in shaping the future of their own communities. Our strengths include:



- *being an independent, voluntary sector organisation whose prime objective is to assist and support the growth of active communities throughout the UK.*
- *the Foundation's national reputation for excellence, based on many years experience of designing and delivering community consultation, participation and capacity building programmes.*
- *our commitment to explicit, open and honest methods, with skilled staff and experience of working in partnership on projects and training.*

All our work is to one end...that local people play a full part in planning and implementing effective regeneration in their own neighbourhood.

We work on both paid and charitable contracts.

What we offer

Through the use of highly participative, visual, interactive tools and techniques, we break the barriers that stand in the way of resident involvement in regenerating neighbourhoods.

Amongst these tools is "Planning for Real"[®], probably the best known community planning technique in use today. "Planning for Real"[®] is a registered Trade Mark of the Foundation which enables us to monitor good practice and maintain quality.



Through our nationwide network of consultants and trainers, we deliver projects and training in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

We work in partnership with other organisations to deliver both projects and training.

Projects

Since 1988 The Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation has been working in community development, consultation and training. During this time we have built up a wealth of experience which is of enormous benefit to both our clients and the community.



NIF provides a consultancy service to Local Authorities, Housing Associations, Regeneration Agencies, Health Authorities, government agencies and other bodies. It is also able to provide some free support to under-funded community groups.

NIF's key development tool, "Planning for Real"[®] is a means of giving local people a voice, and professionals a clear idea of local peoples' needs.

Training

Our training programme, 'Practical Tools for Community Action', offers capacity building for both residents and professionals. Based on our years of practical experience and delivered by trainers who work in the field, our courses are continually developing to reflect the changing agenda in regeneration, social inclusion and current best practice.



All of our training courses are designed for those who work in and with communities, whether they are full time community development professionals, local activists or those wanting to become more involved in their own neighbourhoods.

Whilst theory is important, it is often the practical application of ideas that gives those attending our courses the best insight into solving real problems in real situations; and for that reason we select trainers who can demonstrate both theoretical knowledge and current practical experience. In addition, we try to use local trainers whenever we can,

who understand the dynamics of local communities and are able to use more relevant anecdotal evidence to illustrate their training.

Youth Development

The primary focus of our Youth Development Department is to develop engagement tools and strategies to increase and sustain the involvement of young people in regeneration activity. The department achieves this by working primarily with young people, but also by expanding and refining new and existing programmes and activities for use by practitioners. We also work in raising awareness amongst, and developing participatory techniques for, decision makers who wish to actively engage young people in regeneration and neighbourhood development.



Resources for Schools

Our resources for schools help children of all ages to address real local issues and problems in their communities by looking closely at the neighbourhoods around their schools and their own role as citizens of the future. Resources are available in several formats.

Written with the help of curriculum advisors and teachers, and piloted in a cross section of schools and special units, our resources have been specifically developed to meet the opportunities of Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4.



Neighbourhood Initiatives
The Poplars
Lightmoor
Telford
TF4 3QN

Tel: 0870 7700339

www.nif.co.uk



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