



WSA
Community
Consultants

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



WSA community consultants

Hello!

WSA Community Consultants has been busy over the last year! In this Annual Summary, we would like to update you about what has been happening. We have worked with passionate and committed organisations and communities on a number of diverse projects in 2014.

If you'd like to find out more about the work we do, our values and who we are, please visit our website at www.wsacommunity.co.uk. We are also on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wsacommunity) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/WSACommunity>). Give us a follow / like and keep up with what we're up to!



2014 has been a busy year for WSA Community Consultants. Our work with Big Local areas has continued and developed, we have also worked on separate Big Local projects, supporting specific Big Local areas on particular developments. We have also been working on the 'Our Place' programme providing relationship management and consultancy support to four areas. Our other work includes working with People's Health Trust, the Maternal Mental Health Alliance and for West Sussex County Council as part of a Community Development Foundation team.

Throughout this year, we have worked with some really inspiring and dedicated organisations and people, developing strong and sustainable relationships. Our clients have included community activists, community groups, voluntary groups, statutory providers and community researchers. WSA would love to take this opportunity to thank those who we have worked with, and to express our admiration for the work these organisations are doing to benefit their local communities.

Best Wishes,

Wendy

And all at WSA Community Consultants

Our Interns Megan Life and Vicky Tedder

2014 saw us welcome a Project Support and Research officer to our team for short term employment opportunities. Megan Life was the first Project Support and Research Officer working at WSA. As part of our approach to inclusion we are committed to giving opportunities when we can to support young people who want an opportunity to learn about and experience community development.

Megan writes about her experience with WSA:

'Due to the nature of consultancy work, I got to engage with different projects and clients every day which meant the work was diverse and exciting. I developed a valuable insight into the community development sector which I will certainly take into my full-time job after I graduate. As I will be working in local Government from September, the skills and knowledge I have gained throughout this internship will be extremely beneficial for my future career.'

Following Megan moving on Vicky was able to join us in September and has enjoyed taking on new challenges: *'I've loved being able to put my understanding of research and community development into a more practical setting. Being able to work with different projects has given me a diverse experience where I've learnt about some inspirational projects. This has been a fantastic opportunity put to the test some of my ideas about future careers and look at the diverse opportunities in community development.'*

The Big Local Areas - Updates

Big Local

Wendy has been working as a Big Local Rep in 4 different areas this year; Bountagu, Lower Edmonton (Enfield), Slade Green (Bexley), Worlds End and Lots Road (Kensington & Chelsea) and Plaistow South Big Local (Newham).

She has been supporting residents in all these areas to deliver the programme that invests £1 million in an area to make it an even better place to live. Her role as a rep is to offer support on the ground, offer facilitation, tools and guidance to the local area as well as facilitate contact between the different groups and act as a link to learning from other areas and the Local Trust.

Bountagu Big Local

has just reached the end of year one delivery. They have achieved a lot this year and now have an active community hub (an old betting shop), a great



outreach programme and have increased the volunteer and community involvement. They are a great example of asset based community development.

Slade Green Big Local

has also just reached the end of year one delivery. They have delivered a lot of events and projects this year as well as using year one to



consolidate their strategies going forward. A key example of some of the projects includes two markets, community fun days, community safety project and events and an active and inspiring youth forum. A great example of their strategic development was the commissioning of Design by Nature to undertake an audit of all the green

and open spaces producing mapping and an action plan for delivery going forward.

Worlds End & Lots Road

is a wave three area and their plan is not yet written or endorsed. Their key work this year has been to employ a worker to undertake consultation with the community around the key changes or projects they would like to see. The newly formed Local Partnership will work with the worker and local organisations to consolidate this into a plan for submission early 2015. A key additional piece of consultation undertaken this year is a youth consultation commissioned to Julia Walton. Julia employed two local young people to work alongside her and as a result the area has great data on what young people want and need. A natural next step to this work is to work with young people to set up a youth manifesto for the area.

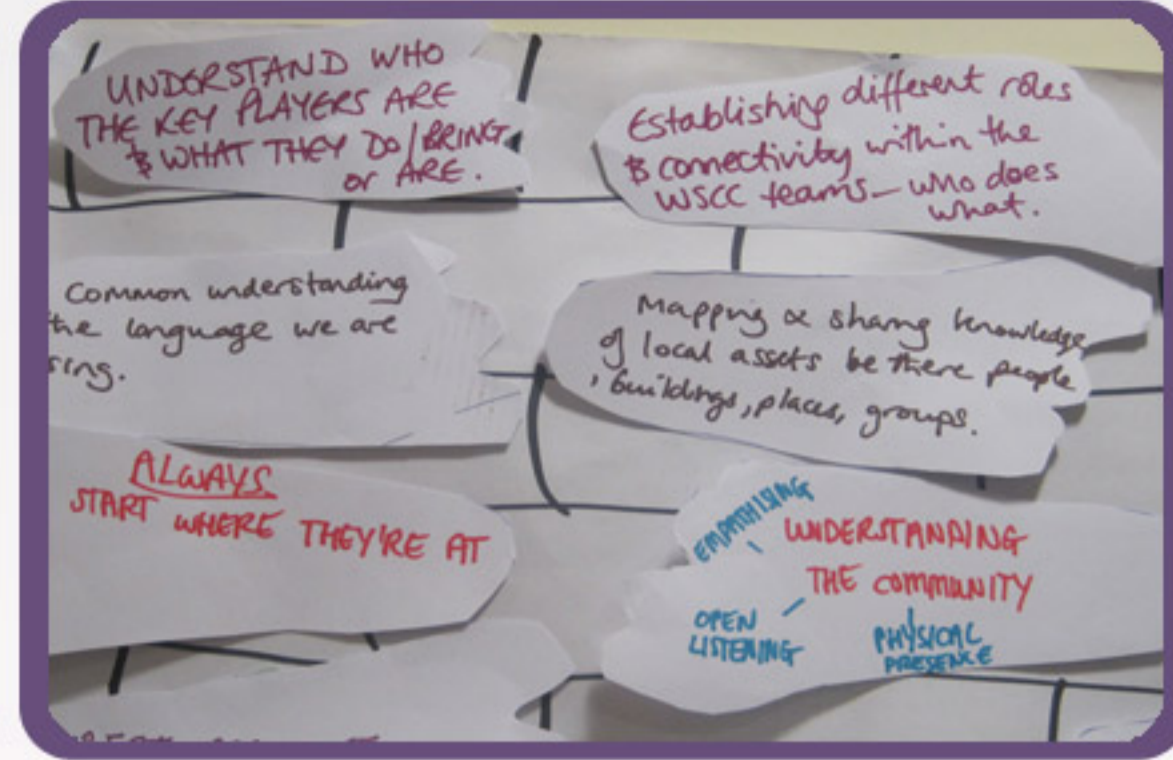
In addition to acting as Rep this year *WSA Community* has also:

- ▶ Worked with Farley Hill Big Local to develop their plan
- ▶ Worked with North Brixton Big Local to look at their partnership development, roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Just started working with Noel Park Big Local to support their Getting Started implementation, develop the profile and plan
- ▶ Facilitated learning events between Big Local areas including joined up work with Alison Gilchrist and Mandy Wilson to bring together workers, chairs and local trusted organisations

Plaistow South Big Local

submitted and got their plan endorsed this year and are now in delivery phase. Wendy worked with them temporarily until their plan was agreed and we wish the group all the best going forward!

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People's Health Trust

Following previous work with PHT we were asked to support community groups in applying for funding from their Active Communities Programme within Health Equality which covers five West London boroughs.

We worked to undertake outreach to find groups that meet the criteria and could benefit from the funding. We worked at a local level with borough wide CVS's and key organisations to undertake an outreach programme which we hoped would identify a number of small, community groups in the eligible areas.

We focussed on the Hammersmith and Fulham and Hounslow and Hillingdon, and ensured that groups operated in areas of high levels of deprivation.

Having identified a number of groups which were eligible for funding, we held surgeries in each of the areas in order to develop project ideas and assist in planning. Ultimately, we supported 21 groups in creating strong, eligible applications.

At the end of 2014 we have undertaken a new project with the People's Health Trust once again helping groups to apply for the HealtLives area covering five East London Boroughs.

Maternal Mental Health Alliance

Gillian Granville Associates and *WSA Community Consultants* were commissioned by the Maternal Mental Health Alliance to undertake the external evaluation of their campaign 'Everyone's Business' which aims to raise the profile of perinatal mental health, apply sustained pressure to address the commissioning and the delivery of perinatal mental health care and end the postcode lottery around access to services.

The campaign is funded by Comic Relief. More information on 'Everyone's Business' can be found at <http://everyonesbusiness.org.uk/>



Our Place

Wendy Sugarman, *WSA Community Consultants* Director is a Relationship Manager for Our Place working with four areas to support them to engage partners and local communities in the transformation of local areas. Our Place builds on previous pilots to engage local partners and communities in a methodology to look at innovative and joined up approaches to tackle local issues. Our Place is funded by DCLG and managed by a Locality led consortium. For further information: <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/our-place/>

The projects being supported by WSA are:

- ❖ Volunteering for All - Working in the London Borough of Kingston to look at joined up solutions to engaging homeless people in diverse volunteer opportunities
- ❖ New Kingshold Estate, Health Champions - project running in an area of Hackney to look at community led solutions to health issues engaging residents as health champions and adding value to the Public Health funded Health Hub
- ❖ Phoenix Community Housing, Engaging Youth Leadership - working in two wards in the London Borough of Lewisham addressing youth involvement and leadership across a range of issues including environmental improvements, activities and mapping facilities in the area
- ❖ Volunteering Programme Penge - Working in Penge ward in the London Borough of Bromley to establish a virtual volunteer centre which will create and support youth-based community interactions

West Sussex County Council

Working as a CDF associate and in partnership with colleagues from CDF and Shared Assets, *WSA Community Consultants* worked with West Sussex County Council to deliver community development training as part of their strategic programme 'Stronger Communities'. This was for a wide range of staff from across West Sussex County Council and the programme included community development training, reflective practice sessions and models of Action Learning.

The programme aims to build community resilience, improve community engagement and support community development and strong communities.



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Finally

We'd like to say a special Thanks to all those we have worked with this year. If you would like to know more about our work directly, or how we could work with you, please drop us a line at wendy@wsacommunity.co.uk or 020 8376 0985 / 07932 730477

Bountagu Big Local

Citizens UK

Community Links Bromley

Community Development Foundation

Community Regen

Enfield Children's & Young Peoples services

Chelsea Theatre

Kensington & Chelsea Social Council

Farley Hill Big Local

Volunteer Centre Hackney

Locality

Gillian Granville Associates

Howbury Friends

Howbury Tumblers

Kim Donahue

Local Trust

Mandy Wilson

Alison Gilchrist

Just Ideas

North Brixton Big Local

Phoenix Community Housing

West Sussex County Council

Maternal Mental Health Alliance

Mobilise

People's Health Trust

Renaisi

Sian Penner

Slade Green Big Local

United Kingdom Community Foundations

Worlds End & Lots Road Big Local

London Community Foundations

YMCA South West London



WSA Community Consultants - supporting and strengthening community development, social inclusion, participation and empowerment