



The Big Offer



A free programme of practical learning for community groups and activists



Helping you build the Big Society

There has been much talk of the 'Big Society' over recent months. Many of us have been working in or on behalf of our neighbourhoods and communities for some time; others would like a starting point to enable them to get involved.

The Big Offer is designed to help and support activists to grasp opportunities which will be created over the coming months as the Coalition Government encourages a more 'mixed' provider market. The recently announced 'Localism Bill' encourages activists to take advantage of the new freedom to 'run their lives and neighbourhoods in their own way'

Power to the People!

Training is **free** to anyone in East Midlands, and people can 'pick and mix', choosing sessions most relevant to them.

What's new and different?

- It's free.
- It's practical - you will learn skills and techniques to use in your neighbourhood or community.
- It's user friendly - we have recruited a team of tried and tested trainers who have worked in and with activists for a long time.



When and where?

The programme runs during February and March 2011. Look for specific dates and locations alongside each training session. Most sessions will be at the Riverside Conference Centre, Riverside Court, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8HY, which will act as the Big Offer 'hub' and is easily accessible by road or rail and has ample parking. Sessions will run from approximately 09.30am - 4.00pm with refreshments and lunch provided.

Please have a look at the programme, each session is grouped under our key themes, and book immediately as we anticipate a lot of interest!

See the back page for booking details.



Community Research & Planning



Community Research Skills

A practical two day workshop providing training in a range of skills which will help you learn how to effectively carry out community consultation and research.

You will be able to devise questionnaires, conduct interviews and present the information in a way that gets the best results.

This training is delivered over two days, and will be useful for individuals or groups who want to challenge or campaign in their neighbourhood.

2nd - 3rd February 2011

9.30am - 4pm, Riverside Conference Centre, Derby
www.emep.org.uk/crs1

22nd - 23rd February 2011

9.30am - 4pm, Riverside Conference Centre, Derby
www.emep.org.uk/crs2

Activists need to be able to identify the key issues to address in their own locality, and how to address them; our two workshops will provide much of what you need to know.

Neighbourhood Action Planning

A practical two day workshop to help you to gain an in-depth understanding of current initiatives focusing on Neighbourhood Action.

You will learn a number of tools and techniques used in neighbourhood action planning. By the end you will be able to develop neighbourhood action plans, which will enable you and your neighbourhood or community to quickly identify local priorities and needs. You will also be able to devise plans and actions to address chosen priorities.

15th - 16th February 2011

9.30am to 4pm, Riverside Conference Centre, Derby
www.emep.org.uk/nap1



Partnership Working



4th February 2011
9.30am to 4pm
Riverside Conference
Centre, Derby
www.emep.org.uk/pw1

Working in partnership with the 'right' organisations or individuals is a key element in developing changes to your neighbourhood or community.

Working collectively with different charities or community groups could enable you to take on services previously provided by your local authority, or simply with other local groups.

This one day workshop will provide interactive exercises designed to help you to plan how to improve working together in partnership.

You will:

identify common ground to get a 'win win' situation, develop trust, improve communication and understanding, connecting with different ideas and opinions, adopting different behaviours to stimulate change and achieve more.

The session is designed for people working in local communities, either as volunteers, or representing communities or partnerships. It would also benefit frontline staff working in agencies or charities.



Managing Conflict

Conflict Resolution

This one day workshop is aimed at helping individuals or groups to learn techniques to resolve conflict such as neighbourhood disputes or tension amongst individuals or groups in a community.

You will learn the basic principles of conflict management including how to recognise signs and possible reasons why conflict may arise. It explores how to use effective communication to calm situations including dealing with both verbal and non-verbal conflict.

This course is participative and you are invited to share experiences and work through ways of resolving areas of conflict.

14th February 2011

9.30am - 4pm,
Riverside Conference Centre, Derby
www.emep.org.uk/cr1

Restorative Approaches in Action

This is a three day workshop to help individuals or communities deal with the aftermath of an incident or offence. Restorative Justice (RJ) is a specific technique which is used widely in the criminal justice system, but is spreading rapidly to communities, education and workplaces as an effective mechanism for dealing with conflict.

You will gain insight into Restorative Justice (RJ) for example, dealing with difficult issues that impact on individuals and places. There is a focus on how to use the RJ language effectively and how to use the approach, being sensitive to diversity issues.

You will have the opportunity to practice applying RJ skills to a conflict situation in a safe environment.

1st - 2nd - 3rd March 2011

9.30am - 4pm each day,
Riverside Conference Centre, Derby
www.emep.org.uk/raia1

Conflict amongst individuals, groups and communities negatively impacts on developing change and improving quality of life.

Our two workshops are designed to address and resolve serious 'conflict' issues.



Community Leadership

This programme aims to provide information and skills to inspire and encourage people to become community leaders or strengthen existing leadership skills.



Skilling Up for Stronger Voices

Effective community engagement and partnership working has never been more important. This one day workshop will support your learning about community engagement and your understanding of how it can work to strengthen local activity; and will provide you with a set of resources and tools to enable a deeper understanding of the community's role and its value in the 'Big Society'.

23rd February 2011

9.30am to 4pm,
Riverside Conference
Centre, Derby
www.emep.org.uk/sufsv1

*Working
collaboratively
has never been
so important*



This one day workshop is a must for anyone interested in understanding how democracy works

Democracy Days

We are in a new era since the Coalition Government came to power. The Localism Bill, announced on 13th December 2010, aims to decentralise power from Whitehall, giving increased ability for more local decision-making and planning.

This one day workshop is a must for anyone interested in understanding how democracy works, and how local people and organisations can influence national (and local) policy-making.

You will gain more knowledge of decision-making processes and structures, and be able to identify opportunities to develop expertise in influencing decisions using partnership working to improve the way local democracy works.

The workshop will be valuable for anyone who wants or intends to take on community leadership, and for individuals in voluntary or community organisations to increase their ability to influence decision-making.

8th February 2011

9.30am to 4pm,
YMCA Derby, Alvaston
www.emep.org.uk/dd1

15th February 2011

9.30am to 4pm, Doe Lea
Resource Centre, Chesterfield
www.emep.org.uk/dd2

Community Leadership - A Call to Action

Demonstrating leadership is often about 'taking action' on issues either proactively or in response to what is going on. Taking action is not as easy as it sounds, especially when individuals do this in their own right, but it is a big part of the success that local activists enjoy in their work.

This one day workshop will consider the barriers and inhibitors to taking action and look at how these can be addressed and turned into constructive mechanisms to be more effective.

You will explore:

- what different forms action can take
- the leadership qualities that community activists have
- the barriers for some people in being more active
- strategies to encourage greater involvement demonstrating stronger leadership

24th February 2011

9.30am to 4pm,
Riverside Conference Centre,
Derby
www.emep.org.uk/cl1



How to book your FREE places

Online registrations:

The quickest and easiest way to register is via our online booking system. Click on (or type) the link to your chosen course below, select the 'registration' button and complete the form. You'll get an automatic confirmation and a link to location maps etc.

Telephone registrations:

If you don't have internet access, please call the events office on 0845 634 4609, and the events team will be happy to help.

You are welcome to register for more than one course. In order to avoid disappointment, please book early, as places are limited.

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