

Investing for Health (IFH) Communities of Interest

The Process

A 'Community of Interest' (for Eastern Area IFH purposes), is a group of organisations and/or individuals who come together because they are interested in working on a topic. In the case of IFH, the relevant topics are each of the Objectives in the Investing for Health Strategy.

There are 2 goals and 7 objectives in Investing for Health.

An Investing for Health Eastern Area Community of Interest will be established for each of the seven objectives and a local community of interest will be established in each of the four localities. The community of interest approach wants to recognise, value and build on existing effective partnership work which addresses health improvement.

A key principle of this approach is the strengthening of the inter-sectoral connections which are working together for health improvement.

A given within this process is the fact that in addressing the 7 objectives in Investing for Health, the two goals will be addressed.

There is a recognition that the goals and objectives in IFH are all interconnected. However, the communities of interest approach enables a more focused and manageable approach at both local and area level.

Area community of interest function:

The area community of interest will:

- ♦ Provide the opportunity for shared learning across the partnership around that specific objective
- ♦ Provide the pathway for identified gaps which would be best progressed at area level.
- ♦ Enable Wellnet partners to access a wide range of effective and evidence based work connected into the Investing for Health objective.

Local community of interest function:

The local community of interest will provide the opportunity for:

- ♦ Local Wellnet partners to strengthen their working connections with others working locally on the same issues and in the same geographical area.
- ♦ Wellnet partners to identify areas of work within specific IFH objectives upon which they are able to work collectively (together).
- ♦ Wellnet partners to prioritise needs to be addressed in respect of positively impacting on health improvement.

Appendix B

- ♦ Wellnet partners to plan and seek a way to implement action to address the needs identified on the IFH objective.

Notes on the process:

- ♦ Area wide commissioned by IFH will assist all partners in their health improvement work e.g. Belfast Healthy Cities Health Indicators work.
- ♦ The community of interests (area and local) will be key processes in informing the Investing for Health, Health Improvement Plans.
- ♦ The community of Interest is a dynamic process with changing constituents and leads as the needs which have been identified are addressed, progressed and assessed and new needs emerge.

Appendix B