

### Snapshot of activities: The Federation for Community Development Learning (FCDL) 2008 – 2009

FCDL is a UK-wide membership organisation that supports individuals, groups and organisations around different aspects of Community Development learning.

We work with our members, partners and allies on strategic developments and on projects that are all about promoting, developing and delivering good quality Community Development learning and practice. We can only give a snapshot of our key activities here: for further information on our work, please go to [www.fcdl.org.uk](http://www.fcdl.org.uk) or to comment, please email: [info@fcdl.org.uk](mailto:info@fcdl.org.uk)

#### Community Development National Occupational Standards

FCDL continued its long involvement with these by undertaking the review under contract to LUK sector skills council. We successfully argued for and demonstrated the benefits of using a participatory Community Development approach to the process of reviewing the existing standards and developing new ones. In addition to the use of a questionnaire, seven hundred people took part in 40 events across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The outcome is a set of Community Development standards that everybody is excited and enthusiastic about using and promoting.



#### Community Work Skills Manual

"This manual is extremely comprehensive and will be an invaluable tool for everyone working in the community. It has the added bonus of not seeking to tell you 'how it must be done', though the ways and means are made abundantly clear, but succeeds in creating a space for reflecting on your practice and working through options. The local examples give a good grounding in situations everyone will recognise and will have come across at some point or other, ensuring that everyday realities are reflected throughout"

Matthew Scott, Community Sector Coalition



#### Every Action Counts (EAC): Community Development Approaches

FCDL's activities undertaken within the EAC programme include targeted events for Community Development workers, activists and trainers. Events in our final year's work included:

- Publication of 'What Planet Are You On?' covering a wide range of themes around sustainability in an informal and accessible way. This publication is one of 14 taster packs available for download FREE from our website.
- Community Work Skills Manual, including examples of environmental action.
- Action learning based visits and workshops for community led networks and groups including many Refugee groups.
- North East members of 'Homes Under Threat' Network linking housing and communities with social and environmental justice.
- North West Communities led partnership supporting 'Innovative journeys' by community members on barges, bikes, buses and trains.
- Diversity strand of EAC work led by Capacity Global.

Much of our work within the EAC programme facilitated the process of supporting people to work together to discover new questions and themes that will help identify how to use existing strengths and overcome obstacles for promoting involvement in environmental projects for community groups and members.



#### Improving Reach project

We were delighted to successfully bid for a further three years of resources from *capacitybuilders* to build on the success of the pilot project in 2007-2008. We continued to work with Training for Work In Communities (TWICS) in the South-East, the South-West Foundation and Manchester Refugee Support Network to deliver customised outreach support and training and development opportunities to a range of marginalised and excluded groups. Twelve individuals from a range of marginalised community groups have successfully completed a Training the Trainer course that they customised around their specific experiences and perspectives. Some of these groups, with support from our Improving Reach project, have developed training programmes and materials that will be of use to other community groups and workers. Once these are finalised they will be available on the FCDL website.

- Working with Travellers
- Training for Residents of Housing Associations in Rural Areas
- Proving Your Worth – a training course for small marginalised organisations looking at how they can prove their worth to funders and policymakers.

'Very flexible structure to allow for participants' own needs and input'

'Learned a great deal about how to frame ideas in less jargonistic language'

'Good constructive group-work opportunities'

#### FCDL Event Feedback 2008-9

'Clear, innovative and very helpful'

'It was really wonderful to visit inspirational projects in Bristol'

'Participatory - informative - educational'

'Great depth of knowledge'

'Good mix of facilitators and styles and very inclusive'

#### Current and future activities: Sharing Community Development across the board:

- E-bulletin – we are currently emailing and posting this to our members on a monthly basis. We make it relevant by collating the information from different organisations that is relevant for our members and include information on our ongoing work.
- In common with many Community Development organisations, marketing ourselves and raising our profile too easily falls off our list of priorities. We are currently looking at how to raise our profile as an organisation and to reach out to and actively involve a wider membership.
- We will shortly be launching our new Website – another platform for reaching out to the wider field, as well as creating opportunities for our members to share practice and learning.
- Policy development and responses – we responded to the Communities and Local Government's consultation paper on "Tackling race inequalities" – our response is built on the knowledge and expertise of our members.
- Evidence/evaluation – we are currently in the process of looking at developing an evaluation framework with our members and the wider field, as a way to help capture the learning and raising the profile of all the great Community Development work that is happening out there.
- Health Trainers – we are developing an e-learning resource for Health Trainers around community involvement, in collaboration with PCTs in North-East England.
- Transformation Fund – we have been successful in bidding to the Transformation Fund which is about adult informal learning opportunities. We will be working with four partners to deliver the project.
- 'Building Neighbourhood Governance through Community Development'. We successfully bid to the Big Lottery Fund for this BASIS project and, in partnership with our project partner NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action), we will be working to develop the Community Development skills and understanding of local infrastructure organisations so that small, marginalised community groups will have access to more effective and relevant support.

# Co-Chair's Report

Welcome to the Federation for Community Development Learning (FCDL) 2009 Annual Report. In line with our new format, I'm going to keep this short and sweet.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the work that the FCDL staff group has done to make sure that Community Development learning is grounded in the experiences of communities that are marginalised and excluded from many of the power structures in society. Winning the contract to revise the Community Development National Occupational Standards was part of that work. It is important to note that the work done by the FCDL project team (including staff and consultants) far exceeded the monetary value of the contract itself, but resulted in the development of standards that belong to most, if not all, of those involved in Community Development work across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Fundraising continues to be an important part of our core work and our successes in bringing in investment that supports grass roots Community Development learning is a key part of keeping FCDL in touch with its key constituencies.

There have been ongoing discussions with Board members of Community Development Exchange (CDX) which have built on the long standing cooperation between both organisations. This, along with the links made with other members of the Community Sector Coalition, is a positive part of a gloomy picture.

Given the economic climate and the concerns around funding for voluntary and community activity into the future, there are going to be more challenges to the values and principles of Community Development. The fact that the words 'empowerment' and 'engagement' are used across voluntary and statutory sectors is a challenge for FCDL. In my view, these words are codes for Community Development used by people who have a fear of the fundamental transformation that it can bring, and a long memory of the 'wrong' paths that some Community Development work has gone down.

FCDL's Management Committee has supported its work during a year that has seen many people being made redundant, struggling to find funding to keep their work going at a local level and being drawn into taking on a wider range of work to ensure that their organisations are sustainable. This has meant that I have been the only Co-Chair this year. I hope that the AGM brings in new people to take up the ongoing challenges of being a national organisation built upon local activism.

Dean T Huggins Co-Chair

# Treasurer's Report

Like many organisations in the voluntary sector one of our biggest challenges is diversifying our funding base at the same time as staying true to FCDL's mission and key values. In the past two years we have successfully done this and achieved a range of quality and highly relevant work. Despite limited resources both staff and partners have worked hard to deliver our agreed targets and services.

Thanks must also go to those who have worked on our new funding strategy. This strategy now helps us to identify and prioritise funding opportunities. Providing good evidence of need and the impact of Community Development learning will support future funding bids.

2008/09 will be as challenging as previous years but Community Development's profile is rising which puts FCDL in a great position. Raising FCDL's profile with relevant organisations/bodies over the coming year will support our long term development.

Whatever challenges lie ahead Board members will meet them as always with the support of our members' staff team.

Lynn Brook, Treasurer

# Head of Agency's Report

The past year has been a very successful one for FCDL and one that everybody involved with our work - FCDL members, management group, staff team and other partners can be proud of. Please see the snapshot report of our activities in this review. Our successes are down to lots of hard work, some good luck and the active involvement, goodwill and support from our members and partners that make the range, depth and quality of our work possible.

There are always more things to try and improve on than congratulate ourselves about. Raising the profile of FCDL, gaining and involving more members, and disseminating more effectively our Community Development learning resources are among our priorities for the coming year.

We are delighted to welcome Randi Baden, who took up post as Information Development Officer in March, and welcome back and offer congratulations to Emma Bennett, our Support Services Co-ordinator, who has been on maternity leave. As ever, being part of the FCDL staff team and working with our Management Group and members feels like a privilege. We are all looking forward to the coming year, with new projects starting, old and new friends to work with, struggles to continue and newly revised Community Development standards to underpin and support all our activities.

Janice Marks, Head of Agency

# Auditor's Report 2007-8

This information is an extract from the audited annual accounts on which the auditor's opinion was unqualified.

The full report and accounts were approved by the trustees in January 2009 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies. These Summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity.

For further information the full accounts and the auditor's report on those accounts should be consulted. Copies of these may be obtained from FCDL: 3rd Floor, The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW.

As auditors to the charity, we have reviewed the extracts from the accounts and consider that they are consistent with the full accounts, on which we gave our opinion.

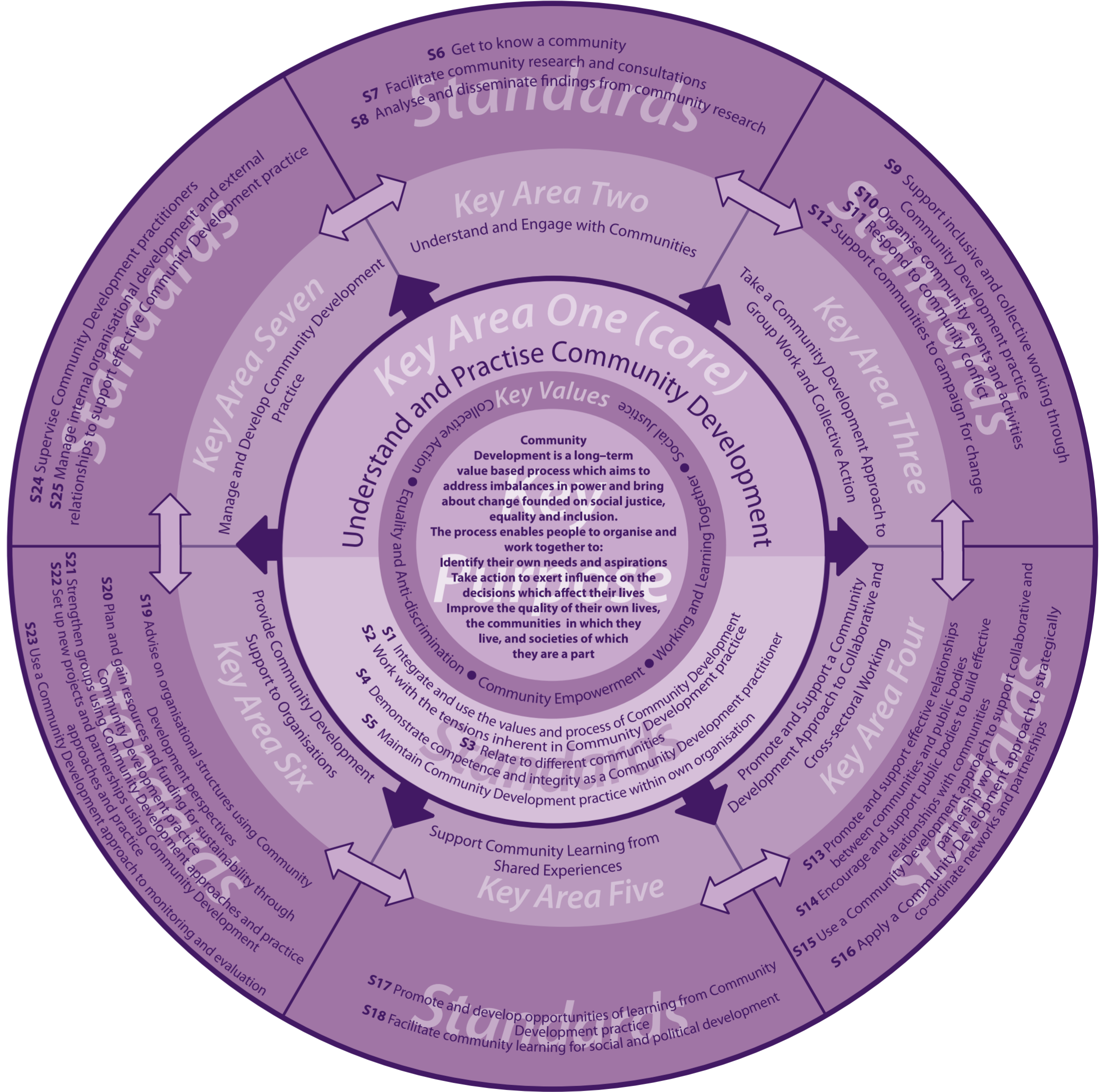
Slade & Cooper, Auditors

22 September 2009

**Directors:** Sandy Bennett, Lynn Brook (Treasurer), Jan Crawley, Dave Evans, Dean T Huggins (Co-Chair), Jonathan Hyams, Lee Ling (Co-optee from CDX until October 2008), Annette Rimmer, Sue Trevelyan-Jones (Until February 2009), Bill Wallwork

**Staff:** Emma Bennett (Support Services Co-ordinator), Abi Goodman (Information Development Officer until October 2008), Sue Leach (Admin Support Officer), Janice Marks (Head of Agency), Susi Miller (Training Development Officer), Ann-Marie Pope (Finance & Premises Officer), Deborah Rhodes (Admin Support Officer), Randi Baden (Information Development Officer from March 2009)

# Community Development National Occupational Standards 2009



Statement of financial activities and Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2008				
	Restricted Funds (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	2008 (£)	2007 (£)
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary Income	-	-	-	170,882
Investment Income	-	9,525	9,525	3,234
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
Community Development learning activities	473,234	103,942	577,176	525,397
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>473,234</b>	<b>113,467</b>	<b>586,701</b>	<b>699,513</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Community Development learning activities	344,722	205,957	550,679	521,775
Governance costs	-	3,710	3,710	4,577
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>344,722</b>	<b>209,667</b>	<b>554,389</b>	<b>526,352</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</b>	<b>128,512</b>	<b>(96,200)</b>	<b>32,312</b>	<b>173,161</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>	<b>(148,087)</b>	<b>148,087</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(19,575)</b>	<b>51,887</b>	<b>32,312</b>	<b>173,161</b>
<b>Funds at 31 March 2007</b>	<b>28,993</b>	<b>268,863</b>	<b>297,856</b>	<b>124,704</b>
<b>Funds at 31 March 2008</b>	<b>9,418</b>	<b>320,750</b>	<b>330,168</b>	<b>297,856</b>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2008		
	2008 (£)	2007 (£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Assets	8,692	10,537
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	230	6,752
Debtors	109,603	17,659
Cash at Bank and In-Hand	288,068	405,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>397,901</b>	<b>430,186</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year</b>	<b>(76,425)</b>	<b>(142,867)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>321,476</b>	<b>287,319</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>330,168</b>	<b>297,856</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	13,930	7,976
General funds	306,820	260,887
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>320,750</b>	<b>268,863</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>9,418</b>	<b>28,993</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>330,168</b>	<b>297,856</b>

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