



# Using Mapping

*sharing practice sheet* no. 5

Mapping techniques can be used to start initial plans and also to explore issues within a group or community. This exercise introduces some of the basic ideas of mapping by asking participants to create a typical rural or urban community.

**Materials needed:** large flipchart paper, sellotape, pens, felt tips, scissors, post-it notes and card.

## Steps

1. The group is divided into two.
2. Each group was given a different case study and asked to produce a map illustrating the key benefits, problems and issues about living in a typical rural or urban community. Participants can use the materials to draw or create models.
3. Each group then talks about the picture they have produced and the issues raised through the discussion.



This exercise was used as part of a practice sharing event held in Southampton on April 8th 2003. The event was organised by the Federation for Community Development Learning Training for Work in Communities and the Workers Education Association. Other information sheets from this event include: Challenging stereotypes (sheet no.3) and Using games (sheet no.4)

The Southampton event is part of a series of practice sharing events being co-ordinated by the Federation. The aim of the events is to both celebrate and share examples of good practice within community development learning.



## Case Study One: Rural Community

Some characteristics of the community are:

- Village situated in the middle of farmland
- Used to be populated mainly by people making their living off the land and related services
- Used to be fairly self sufficient community
- Used to be mainly smaller terraced housing and tied cottages but now lots of new houses built around the edges
- Overwhelming majority of the newer housing inhabited by people making their living in the surrounding larger towns and cities
- Some social housing but very little.



## Case Study Two: Urban community

Some characteristics of the community are:

- Inner city area of a large city – only about half mile square
- Surrounded by main roads on three sides and a cement works on the other side
- Built in the 60s
- Predominantly social housing – tower blocks, walk-up blocks and maisonettes
- Diverse communities in the area
- High percentage of young families and young people
- Area has a 'bad reputation'.

An alternative use for this exercise is to ask groups to draw their own community as they see it.

By drawing and creating small models of their community the discussion often covers a range of issues that affect the community. The exercise could then be followed up by exploring the issues more deeply using other exercises (see information sheet no.3 Challenging stereotypes or information sheet no.1 What is community development?).