

**A conference for practitioners in the
South East of England on Tuesday 31st March 2009
at Portsmouth Football Club, Portsmouth, Hampshire.**

EMPOWERMENT

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MECHANICS OF EMPOWERMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST

The South East has a strong empowerment heritage in both of the identified empowerment champions (Portsmouth City Council, Brighton and Hove City Council) and in a wide range of other organisations across the region. This event will showcase some of the current empowerment activity in the region.

*The new **'Duty to Involve'** is upon us and with other new legislation imminent that promises to implement the Empowerment White Paper policies **DO YOU FEEL READY to take on the empowerment challenge?***

*This is a **FREE** event organised by the Neighbourhood Training and Resource Centre (South East) on behalf of your Regional Empowerment Partnership in the South East. The event consists of a variety of study tour and briefing sessions which will give you the opportunity to hear in person from those at the forefront of empowerment across the South East Region.*

Who is this event for?

This event is designed as an introduction to empowerment and is for those with an interest or experience in delivering empowerment from any sector. The briefings and study tours will be varied and relevant and will suit both practitioners and strategic level delegates who want to understand more about empowerment and what it means for their organisation.

Format for the day:

The day will consist of a series of briefings and study tours which, whilst serving as an introduction to the subject, will also demonstrate the accomplishments and challenges of individual projects with the aim of sharing ideas and innovation with you as well as developing a network of contacts from across the region. All delegates will have the opportunity to attend the briefings and study tours in Portsmouth and choose from a series of briefings in the afternoon (see details over).

PRESENTATIONS

There will also be 3 short presentations throughout the day as follows:

- Keynote Speech - GOSE
- Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE) - IESE and Empowerment in the region
- Fiona White, Head of Community Involvement Empowerment and Development, Portsmouth City Council – Portsmouth and the Duty to Involve

STUDY TOURS (am)

Study Tour 1: Hosted by Learning Links who will explain their Social Enterprise business focusing on their Community Evaluators project, their journey and achievements.

Study Tour 2: Hosted by Portsmouth City Council – Resident Participation Team who, along with residents, will talk about their tenant engagement process, the support that they offer to residents and how residents benefit as a result.

BRIEFINGS (pm)

Delegates should choose 3 briefings to attend:

Briefing 1: Hosted by the Sunlight Trust and the Shout Out self advocacy group, Shout Out are a group for adults with learning disabilities working to change attitudes about learning disability, the group is run by its members who have been empowered to run the group themselves.

Briefing 2: Hosted by Thornhill Plus You. Thornhill Plus You is a ten year government funded New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme in Thornhill, Southampton. The team have recently run an 'X-Factor' style Participatory Budgeting event.

Briefing 3: Hosted by Brighton and Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum - 'third sector representation and influence in Brighton and Hove: involving people in strengthening their communities': The Community and Voluntary Sector Forum in Brighton and Hove provide the secretariat for the Stronger Communities Partnership which leads on activities to strengthen communities in the city's Local Area Agreement.

Briefing 4: Hosted by Mark Richardson, Community Safety Manager - Thanet District Council : 'Engaging and empowering young people, on their terms, to build safer communities'. Young people are considered as one of the more difficult groups with whom to engage and empower. Thanet District Council have developed some novel ways in which to give young people the opportunity to help make communities safe.

Location and timings:

The event will be held at the Victory Lounge, Portsmouth Football Club. The venue is easy to get to both by road and rail with plenty of free parking. Directions will be sent out with joining instructions.

The day will start at 10am (registration from 9.30am) and will finish at 4pm.

What do you need to do now?

Please complete the attached booking form, return it to us and we will send you joining instructions for the day.



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