

ACE - GROUP PROFILES

AFIG AND SYMPATHISERS

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

To support asylum seeking and refugee women from the Ivory Coast living in Glasgow and its environs. We provide a focus for women experiencing social isolation enabling them to share information and overcome barriers to; accessing services, training, volunteering and employment opportunities. We also create activities to undermine stress and create bonds between Ivorian communities and give a warm welcome to any Ivorian in Glasgow.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

This support will be very beneficial to our group. It will help us build our capacity and enable us to be more effective in supporting and engaging with the Ivorian community in Glasgow.

It will give us the opportunity to examine how things will progress and plan for future developments. It will also strengthen our committee so that we will become more developed (financially and in policy).

ASURE (ADDICTION SERVICE USER RECOVERY EAST)

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

ASURE aims to promote service user involvement by engaging with both the community and addiction service providers both locally and nationally. We strive to promote recovery and best practice in addiction services. By doing so, our group promotes the empowerment of service users.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

The ACE programme will enable our group to develop more service user involvement. Also it will develop and improve the capacity of our group and allow us to further develop our aims.

BENARTY COMMUNITY FORUM GROUP

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

Benarty Community Forum Group was established to engage local residents with a view to determining their needs, issues and aspirations whilst fostering community spirit, self-help, co-operation and meaningful community participation. We are made up of representatives of local groups and agencies.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

The ACE programme will give us the knowledge, confidence and tools to enable us to play a significant role in our community. The ACE support will also motivate and encourage group members to play their part and take responsibility for moving this group forward thus ensuring that we can involve the wider community more effectively. ACE support will also allow us to objectively look at ourselves and identify areas of risk/weakness in our group which need to be addressed to enable us to be more effective.

EAST END COMMUNITY ADDICTION FORUM (ECAAF)

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

The Forum encourages local people to get involved and manage the organisation to achieve its aims. These are to; advance education, including specifically but not exclusively raising public understanding of addiction within the wider community; relieve ill health and promote good health among people who are affected by addiction or by the addiction of another person; relieve poverty by providing premises, facilities, resources, equipment, increasing access to information to improve quality of life; provide training, particularly in fields relevant to the establishment and operation of community addiction; and, to advance citizenship and community development of disadvantaged and excluded groups.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

We recognise that that the Forum needs the consistency of a dedicated worker who will design workshops that will help us develop and deal with the changes that we are facing. ACE support will focus the existing group and encourage more community involvement and participation to establish a sense of ownership.

GRAMPIAN FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

The Grampian Family Support Forum is made up of family members who are affected by a loved one's drug misuse. Our aim is to improve recognition for families affected by drugs in Grampian, improve the service provision for families and tackle the stigma they face.

By doing this we will build upon the learning, personal development and capacity of forum members, strengthen our voice and that of our respective family support groups locally and regionally.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

ACE would give our forum a more 'hands on' support from experienced mentors for a longer duration. The support would assist us in becoming an independent constituted body – allowing the forum greater opportunity for external funding. It would allow excellent training opportunities through the ACE workshops and access to a learning network that we would not otherwise have.

KARIBU

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

The provision of a structured programme of activities that provide a focus for African refugee and asylum seeking women experiencing social isolation in Glasgow and the surrounding areas. Our activities include; English; Sewing; Growing Food and Cookery in the Hidden Gardens; Drop in. We support and share information to help African women overcome the barriers to accessing services, training, volunteering and employment opportunities.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

The support will help our group focus on and develop its plan to help more African women access employment opportunities. It will also help us focus on our hopes of developing a social enterprise to provide training and employment opportunities for our members.

MINGINISH COMMUNITY TRUST ASSOCIATION

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

We have formed this group to create a route towards a Community Trust which can undertake development projects in our area. We have some small projects that could be started in the short term and ideas for larger ones in the long term. Our area is rural, dispersed and isolated, yet there are opportunities with tourism and renewable resources that could be used to benefit the community and help to sustain vital local services.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

We hope that it will bring an outside perspective and a sense of reassurance that the issues we face are unique, are not insoluble, have been successfully tackled elsewhere and can be successfully tackled here. Guidance through the maze of laying the foundations for a successful community trust will be invaluable. There is a big difference between reading how to do something from a book and being able to talk with experienced people about specific issues and ways to solve them. It is easy to discard perfectly good written advice because the local situation is different in some way, making it hard to see how it could be solved. Direct contact and guidance through the ACE programme can stop these barriers forming.

SCOTTISH REFUGEE POLICY FORUM

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

The SRPF committee and membership meet on a regular basis to facilitate the integration of asylum seekers and refugees living in Scotland by assisting them to develop an independent, representative and collective voice. The organisation plays an active role in promoting initiatives which raise awareness, alleviate poverty, assist integration and improve the quality of life for asylum seekers and refugees.

The SRPF seeks to ensure all groups and individuals have their views represented, including women and other additionally marginalised groups and we work towards our needs being recognised and accommodated within policy development and service provision.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

ACE support will assist us in the transition from being an organisation that is dependent on support from the Scottish Refugee Council to one which is

viewed as an independent, refugee-led organisation. In addition, our organisation has many competing priorities and we would like to improve our skills in managing, developing and responding to these priorities. We would also like to develop the capacity of the management committee to a point where we are in a position to employ a development worker/co-ordinator for our organisation and to further develop our office facility, partnership arrangements, policy positions and longer term funding strategy.

Our organisation will benefit from the ACE support as it will allow us to take stock of our development to date while allowing us to develop further our ambitions. We are also particularly interested in the learning exchange programme and the educational and networking opportunities which this will provide to our committee and membership.

WISH – WOMEN IN SPORT & HEALTH

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

WISH stands for Women in Sport and Health and the WISH group provides free sports and health related activities for women experiencing isolation in Clackmannanshire. WISH aims to help and support women who may be facing issues such as homelessness, unemployment or other factors which leave them feeling isolated to participate in programme activities and get involved with others in similar circumstances.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

WISH has recently become a social economy organisation and the group hopes to use ACE support to develop their programme and make the transition into a sustainable community enterprise.

Y-PEOPLE GLASGOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

To liaise with Y-People Glasgow for the diverse needs of residents in areas of improvements to housing and services. To support individual residents to have a say on the Y-People project, workers and management. To work together as an association and with other associations, organisations and networks to support the wider needs of members.

2. What difference/s do you think ACE support will make to your group?

We are of the opinion that the ACE Support programme will help us to campaign for improvements in the services rendered to our community. We will acquire additional skills and empowerment to achieve what is mentioned in our mission statement, "promoting the interest of all Y-People Glasgow residents", as well as to help us to achieve the change we have dreamt for.