

ARC EoE Peterborough and Fenland Community Engagement and Networking Workshop

Summed-up...

In the workshop, we spoke about ways to engage with communities in Peterborough and Fenland, and solutions to reduce inequalities across the region. See more details about the event and access a video interview series with attendees [here](#)

How Can We Engage with Communities to Ensure They Inform our Work?

How do we Reduce Inequalities in Access to Services?

01 Hold regular engagement events and support with solutions to issues faced by local populations. Take note of any re-emerging issues within communities

02 Recognise the important role of education and schools and develop ways to increase their contribution

03 Ask people in the community how best to engage

04 Use existing networks but also engage with new members of the public

05 Recognise the contributions made by members of the community, this could be through the development of a volunteer qualification

06 Put on informal, social events to encourage attendance, such as lunch clubs. This can help bridge conversations about other topics

07 Go out to where people are and engage with the community from the start of the project

08 Build trust and invest time to get to know people and their specific needs

09 Work with respected figures in the community, such as religious leaders

10 Consider ways to utilise new platforms and communication methods that have developed over the pandemic

01 Address language barriers by finding out which first languages are spoken in the area, provide alternative prints and hire interpreters where needed

02 Be adaptive, and find imaginative solutions e.g. connecting community members with online digital support services

03 Invest in collaborative working that prevents authorities & local organisations from working in silo

04 Address the digital divide. Everyone needs to have access to equipment and broadband packages

05 Who are we missing by only engaging digitally? We need to make sure all voices are heard, and appropriate communication alternatives are given

06 Provide cultural awareness training for front line staff

07 Distribute services equally across the region

08 Explore the contribution of aligned budgets, rather than only pooled budgets

09 Do not use the term 'hard to reach'. Ask people what the barriers are

10 Invest in developing tailored services which reflect the demographic characteristics of the area