

# Social cohesion and community wellbeing: is social capital the secret ingredient?

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**Date:** Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2007  
**Venue:** Stadium of Light, Sunderland

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## Introduction

**Social capital** has become a buzz word in government and social policy but is still an elusive concept with doubts about whether Robert Putnam's original work in the United States has useful and practical applications on the ground. It has generated a groundswell in the region through North East Social Capital Forum but its real impact amongst those working in regeneration and social renewal is still to be determined. This conference explores whether it is a '**secret ingredient**' to spice up regeneration programmes and if so **how best to capture and use it to the benefit of all**.

## What does the conference include?

Using a combination of thought provoking speeches from keynote speakers, presentations from real life projects where social capital has been instrumental in their success and interactive workshops to explore and develop the concept and its application further the conference aims to tease out answers and explore where and how social capital is being developed on the ground.

This one day conference is aimed at those working in the area of regeneration, in particular all aspects of urban renewal. Typically but not exhaustively this includes:

- Council members
- Local Authorities
- New Deal for Communities
- Community and Voluntary Sector
- Government Office
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Neighbourhood Management

The morning will broadly examine the concept of **Social Capital and how it may be utilised to increase social cohesion and build strong communities**. Speakers will look at the **concept of Social Capital and its practical application**. Workshops will present and discuss a range of case studies/presentations from initiatives and programmes where **building Social Capital** has been the main aim or where it has been increased as a by product of a project/initiative.

The afternoon will begin with workshop sessions on '**hot topics**' around **social capital**, with the emphasis on how to harness social capital and conclude with a presentation about Community Well being.

## Delegate Fees

<b>Who you are</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Individuals from statutory authorities	£100
Individuals from funded VCS organisations	£50
Individuals from non funded VCS organisations	£25
Non funded independents	£25

## The Conference Programme

### The morning programme

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9.30 – 9.50	Registration and refreshments
9.45 – 10.00	<b>Chairman's welcome and introduction</b> Mike Worthington, OBE, Vice President, Community Foundation
10.00 – 10.20	<b>Outline of Social Capital, what it means, how it can be/has been used, what is hoped to use it for?</b> Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, North Tyneside Council
10.20 – 10.35	Question and answer session
10.35 – 10.55	<b>Development of Communities and Community Assets</b> David Rossington, Director, Local Democracy, Communities and Local Government Department
10.55– 11.15	Question and answer session
11.15 – 11.45	Refreshments break
11.45 – 12.45	Workshop sessions on <b>building social capital</b> : <b>1 "Better Together - neighbourhood management working with local people,"</b> Betty Weallans, Neighbourhood manager, Improving Croft and Cowpen Quay (ICCQ) <b>2 Neighbourliness - the myths, the evidence, and the interventions,</b> Liz Richardson, IPEG (Institute for Political and Economic Governance) University of Manchester <b>3 Social Capital and the Challenge for School Leadership,</b> Ian Robertson, Head teacher, Hermitage School, Chester le Street <b>4 "Changing the world in Wansbeck"</b> Declan Baharini, Manager of Wansbeck Initiative <b>5 Udecide - Participatory Budgeting in Newcastle,</b> Maggie McKenna, Newcastle City Council <b>6 Social Capital is an outcome of the regeneration process,</b> Sokhjinder Kier and Julie Clarke, CK Consultancy
12.45 – 13.30	Lunch

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### The afternoon programme

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13.30 – 14.30	Workshop sessions on 'hot topics' around social capital: <b>1 Encouraging the positive use of social capital,</b> Dr Chris Lanigan, Group Manager: Policy Development and Co-ordination, North Tyneside Council <b>2 'The revolution just might be televised...':</b> Lisa Laws, Creative Initiatives Manager, Northern Film and Media <b>3 communityNET - a Living Network,</b> Cameron Gordon: DU service design and animation <b>4 Local People Know Best?</b> Philip Stevens, MBE, Chief Executive, New Deal for Communities <b>5 Challenges and opportunities for Local Involvement Networks,</b> Professor Chris Drinkwater, CBE, FRCGP, FFPHM <b>6 How do we compare?</b> Karen Taws, Consultancy
14.30 – 15.00	Refreshments break
15.00 – 15.20	<b>Community Wellbeing</b> Irene Lucas, Chief Executive, South Tyneside Council Chair: Sokhjinder Kler, Chair, North Tyneside Primary Care Trust

15.20 – 15.40 Question and answer session

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15.40 – 16.00 **Concluding question and answer session**

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, North Tyneside Council

Sokhjinder Kler, Chair, North Tyneside Primary Care Trust

Irene Lucas, Chief Executive, South Tyneside Council

Mike Worthington, OBE, Vice President, Community Foundation

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**Conference Close 16.00**

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