





About COH

The Communities of Health (COH) concept was originally developed at NHS Newham in July 2005 following a visit to Newham by Harry Cayton OBE, who was then National Director for Patients and the Public at the Department of Health.

Harry Cayton's visit centred in one of Newham's most diverse areas, where Asian elders had developed their own suite of activities designed to co-create health in partnership with health professionals.

The main part of the project is managed and run by The Forum for Health & Wellbeing (formally The Black and Ethnic Minority Community Care Forum).

THE AIMS OF COH

The main aims of the Communities of Health Award are:-

- To build capacity, sustainability and share best health and social care practices, with the voluntary, community, faith and enterprise sectors of the London Borough of Newham.
- To encourage voluntary and private sector groups within the Borough to provide environmentally healthy conditions for all stakeholders.
- To provide a tested framework that engages all stakeholders who participate in COH to help increase their capability, sustainability and improve the uptake of services provided by NHS Newham.
- To increase and improve the positive impact of what groups already do.

THE PRINCIPLES

The COH framework is based on three principles: -

1

PLANNING-

what you are going to do and how you are going to do it

2

DOING-

doing what you said you would

3

REVIEWING-

measuring your success

HOW IT WORKS

1

Once a group has expressed an interest in the COH Award, they will then either be visited or receive a pack explaining the process to obtain the Award. The objective of this approach is to ensure that groups are clear about the process and exactly what is involved. To start the process you will need to complete an online self diagnosis against the COH framework, this is a visual document that will enable groups to identify what they already have in place against the assessment framework and their gaps. If you need assistance help is available on request.

2

When you are ready you can request your first visit from the COH Development Officer. From this meeting an agreed action plan will be developed. This will include suggested areas for improvement and potential activities to meet any identified gaps together with key benchmarks towards accreditation.

3

The COH Development Officer will keep in regular contact with your group at the agreed key benchmark points and support you through the whole process.

4

Once you feel you have addressed all the gaps identified in the action plan, you will need to contact the COH Development Officer to complete the assessment process.

5

An external Assessor will be appointed to ensure that you are meeting all requirements of the COH Assessment Framework and they will put the group forward to the Accreditation Panel for their approval. Your group will then become accredited and will be presented with the COH plaque and certificate.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- An improved relationship with NHS Newham

- A new way to feedback to NHS Newham

- A strengthened infrastructure to deliver services for your communities

- A better understanding of the impact your group makes to reducing health inequalities in the borough

The Communities of Health initiative enables community groups within the London Borough of Newham to gain recognition for the work they carry out with their local communities and service users.



HOW TO REGISTER

If you are a voluntary, community, faith group or local enterprise running health activities within the borough and wish to take the first step in working towards becoming accredited for Communities of Health, please contact the COH Team.



Communities of Health
The Forum
St Marks Community Centre
Tollgate Road
Beckton E6 5YA



Tel: 020 7473 9513
Fax: 020 7474 3356



Email: coh@bemccf.org.uk
Website: www.communitiesofhealth.org.uk