

Empowered communities in the 2020s: shaping the future of community development

Plans for the steering group

Local Trust is commissioning and managing research to capture the contemporary value and future possibilities of working with communities to enable them to develop to their fullest potential. This exciting opportunity is funded by the Community Development Foundation (CDF) and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF). More details about the research are available [here](#).

The research will be led by a steering group of a broad range of people with an interest in working with and supporting communities.

Responsibilities of the steering group

The steering group will be responsible for:

- agreeing research question(s)
- discussing the delivery of the research
- agreeing a communications strategy and stakeholder involvement
- discussing final products and suggestions for future plans.

Membership and format of the steering group

The advisory group will involve up to twelve individuals. Membership will be by invitation from Local Trust following submission of an expression of interest (see below). All members will be asked to commit to the duration of the project (November 2016 to January 2018).

The advisory group will meet five times:

- November 2016
- January 2017
- June 2017
- October 2017
- January 2018

Each meeting will be attended by representatives from among Local Trust staff and trustees and at least four steering group members. The researchers contracted to conduct the research will also attend the meetings from January 2017 onwards.

Meetings will be face-to-face, for up to three hours. The meetings will be held in London and advisory group members will be reimbursed travel expenses for attending meetings in line with Local Trust's expenses policy.

Membership of the steering group disqualifies members and the organisation(s) they work with from tendering for the research contract.

Recruiting members of the steering group

It is important that the steering group contains the best possible mix of skills and experience and reflects the wide range of interests concerned with this project. To help secure this Local Trust will invite all those interested in joining the steering group to complete an expression of interest questionnaire on Survey Monkey. This will include questions about:

- their interest in the research
- the skills and experience they can bring to steering group
- how they can disseminate information about the project
- their demographic profile.

A panel of Local Trust staff and trustees will decide the composition of the steering group, based on the best fit of skills, experience and interest in the project and the widest reflection of demographics.

The questionnaire will be available in October, along with further details.