



Women and REGENERATION Monday 24th January

Event Report

Introduction

This event brought women's organisations and local women together to look at:

- examples of how women can practically get involved in regeneration
- how regeneration infrastructure fits together
- agreeing key issues for women in regeneration
- putting forward action to make sure women have a stronger voice



What is regeneration and why is it relevant to women today?

Regeneration has been around as a concept for over 20 years but over that time it has changed emphasis...In the early 1990's the focus was on physical regeneration such as housing, today there is a recognition that regeneration needs to be people centred, and to involve people from the local community¹

Urban regeneration covers a wide range of services – housing, transport, education, health and crime. Examples of current regeneration programmes include, Local Strategic Partnerships and New Deal for Communities. For regeneration programmes to be successful they need to take into account men and women's different needs. However while women are very involved in community regeneration programmes they are not well represented on decision-making bodies in regeneration. The Gender and Community Engagement Manchester (GEM) Project found:

- Gender inequality at top decision-making levels (68% of Local Strategic Partnership steering group was male)
- Meetings with gender-balanced attendance had male dominated participation (89% of participation in the New Deal Crime Task Group was male)
- 82% of women felt they had no or very little influence over decisions regarding their communities.²

¹. Gender and the reality of regeneration: a tale of two cities, Oxfam Conference Report, N van der Gaag

² Looking at Gender and Community Engagement in Manchester, GEM project, C Oteyza and H Berry

For women to be more involved in decision making in regeneration there needs to be a number of different measures implemented, below are the recommendations from the Oxfam “Gender and the reality of regeneration: a tale of two cities” conference:

- Targets:** for a fair gender balance (50:50) on Community Empowerment Networks (CENs), Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and other decision making bodies by a set date
- Legislation:** just as the Race Relations Amendment Act made a real difference, a similar requirement for a public duty on gender
- Training and tools:** Gender and Diversity need to be integrated into all existing training programmes
- Statistics and disaggregated data:** break down statistics by gender
- Information:** regeneration officers must equip local women with clear and simple information in order for them to become involved
- Funding and support:** more money is needed for training women to get involved in regeneration, to support women’s involvement in regeneration and for infrastructure organisations to support smaller organisations
- Forums and partnerships:** networks, forums or partnerships that focus on gender issues and come together to share practice and develop expertise have proved successful
- Changing behaviour and attitudes:** being aware of jargon, working with media to promote positive images of men and women and working in school on stereotypes and gender issues.³



As the GEM project concludes:

Gender equality in regeneration will be met when the complexity of women and men's social roles is recognized and their effective participation in processes, which affect their everyday lives, is welcomed and ensured⁴

Workshops

During the day we ran three workshops below are some of the activities and responses from these workshops.

Women and Funding: Darlene Corry, Women’s Resource Centre

This workshop started off by looking at an overview of the women’s voluntary and community sector and funding. In terms of the women’s sector, sustainable funding is a key issue, especially as women have fallen off the political and public agenda and are not a priority for many funders. Looking at policy, there is a move toward public service agreements and contracting out of public sector work. This will make it difficult for small groups to obtain statutory funding, as the application process is quite long and complicated. There is also a move towards income generation – which means organisations will need to come up with creative ways of earning money. Money is also now being filtered to local authorities and not local CVSs (Council’s for Voluntary Sector). Funders are increasingly looking for outcome and impact evaluation which means that you need to be very clear about your funding objectives and realistic in your targets. The single regeneration funding is coming to an end (a large amount of money from this fund went to the voluntary and community sector) and the Big Lottery Fund is not currently

³ Gender and the reality of regeneration: a tale of two cities, Oxfam Conference Report, N van der Gaag

⁴ Looking at Gender and Community Engagement in Manchester, GEM project, C Oteyza and H Berry

making women a funding priority (if lots of women's groups apply to the Big Lottery this could change?). Different kinds of funding that you can apply to include: Independent grant –making trusts, Statutory funding (e.g. Home Office), Income generating funds (e.g. Social Enterprise, Direct giving, money from shows/ exhibitions).

The participants then carried out an exercise on how to go about getting funding and discussed the steps they would take to get more money for a project, these should include: writing a fundraising plan, looking at timescale (should have applications in at least 6 months before you need the money), check funding criteria carefully, look at current policy objectives that support your application, provide evidence for why your proposed work is needed (e.g. case studies, monitoring information, research), look at what monitoring requirements are expected if you receive the funding (if they are too extensive it might not be worth getting the funding), consider partnership working with another organisation to strengthen your application.



Finally the participants looked at writing a fundraising strategy, writing a good fundraising application and practical tips on fundraising. Some of these tips were:

- **Where to get help with funding:** 2nd tier organisations such as LVCS (London Voluntary Service Council), local CVSs and organisations like Women's Resource Centre.
- **Where to go to find funders:** WRC has a copy of funder finder that members can access by appointment, Government website: www.governmentfunding.org.uk/default.aspx
- **Women-friendly funders:** Trust for London, City Parochial, Maypole Fund, Rausing Trust, Eleanor Rathbone, Servite Sisters
- **What to do in a funding crisis:** Funding Code of Practice in the Compact has rules about how and why the Government can pull funding – make sure you know them, Ensure you apply for funding in plenty of time, Get the support of sister organisations - in 3-4 months there's lots that can be done, Organise collectively and make as much noise as possible (petitions, media), contract relevant 2nd tier organisations for support, contact your local MP, councillor or ALG rep.

About WRC

The WRC is a coordinating and support organisation for voluntary and community projects that work for and with women. WRC is a national organisation with a London focus, providing information, training, development support, networking opportunities and policy consultation within the non-profit sector. For more information contact Women's Resource Centre, 76 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA
Tel: 020 7377 0088, E-mail: info@wrc.org.uk, Website: www.wrc.org.uk

Women and Community Safety Workshop: Catherine Robertson and Aziza Kapadia, Making Safer Places

Women participants were introduced in the first instance to the Making Safer Places (MSP) Project Community Safety Audit (CSA) process and Audit Tool, developed by the Women's Design Service in 1996. The women were asked to focus on just one observation point, the area in which the event was being held, Old Castle Street and by applying a Fear-O Meter, were asked to consider specific design features, amenities and facilities in the area that made them feel un safe or vulnerable and to also consider those that contributed to their feelings of safety. Having successfully raised women's knowledge and experience of the area, the Audit Process and Audit Tool, women were then presented with two case studies outlining and summarising the main findings of two previously run MSP Audits and asked to consider levels of safety, who the space actually caters for and which local stakeholders

need to be influenced and on board before policy and decision makers can be lobbied to implement recommendations in order for improvements to be made.

Workshop findings on Observation area: Old Castle Street, EC1

Design Features that made women feel unsafe and vulnerable, amenities and facilities:

- Poor natural surveillance-very few people around
- Frightening if coming for the first time
- Time of day-after dark-scary
- Bus stops isolated and scary to use
- Scary if alone
- Lots of doorways and alleyways
- Sex workers/kerb crawlers
- Rubbish on the floor-from shops
- Unkempt
- Not enough road and street signage- existing signage unclear
- No signage (at the tube station or at the top of the road) to indicate where the Women's Library is
- The women also acknowledged that age, race, gender, disability and sexuality along with personal experience or knowledge of crime, the level of un safety can be compounded



Women also noted design features in the area that made them feel safer

Outside venue

- Saw the Women's Library sign (once outside the door) and felt relieved
- Felt safe in the daytime

Inside venue

- Accessible inside
- Nice clean toilets
- Nice café (and food)

Case Study 1-the Safety in Northmoor CSA, Manchester

Problem with Design Feature: Northmoor Road unsafe for pedestrians to cross

Design Recommendation Summary: Install a crossing

Case Study 2- the Brunswick Estate CSA, London

Problem with Design Feature:

Playground facilities inadequate and used by youth to hang out

Design Recommendation Summary: Expand Playground area and install more facilities to cater for a wider age range and provide separate play facilities for older children/youth i.e. basketball court or football pitch.



Background to The Making Safer Places Project

Making Safer Places is a Community Safety Project targeting priority regeneration areas and working directly with groups of local women to assess the level of safety in the areas in which they live, work and play using a community safety audit tool devised by Women's Design Service in 1996. MSP trains, supports and empowers groups of local women to assess, record and analyse safety concerns including design, access and facilities in their neighbourhood, identify solutions and put forward recommendations for improved community safety. Making Safer Places is currently running in three urban cities; Manchester, Bristol and London. In London, the project partner is EC1 New Deal for Communities. For more information contact: Catherine crobertson@wds.org.uk or Aziza akapadia@wds.org.uk or visit Women's Design Service at www.wds.org.uk

Mapping Regeneration Bodies: Rupa Sarkar, Urban Forum

This workshop explained the relevant national and regional government departments that deliver the government's regeneration strategy. It also explained what the government departments' remits are and how they fit together. The participants then tried to see if they could fit the departments together themselves!



Below are list of some of the key national and regional government departments:

ODPM – Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

- RCU – Regional Co-ordination Unit
 - GOs *Government Offices*

- NRU – Neighbourhood Renewal Unit
 - NSNR *National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*

 - NRF *Neighbourhood Renewal Fund*
 - CEF *Community Empowerment Fund*
 - Community Chest
 - Community Learning Chest
 - Single Community Programme
 - Safer & Stronger Communities Fund
 - Local Area Agreements

 - LSPs *Local Strategic Partnerships* (88 most deprived local authority areas ones only)
 - NDC *New Deal for Communities*
 - Neighbourhood Wardens
 - Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders



DTI – Department of Trade and Industry

- RDAs *Regional Development Agencies* (inc SRB *Single Regeneration Budget* issues)

DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – rural issues

DfES – Department for Education & Skills

- LSCs – “The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding and planning education and training for over 16-year-olds in England”.

Home Office

- ACD – Active Communities Directorate
 - ACU *Active Community Unit*
 - CRU *Civil Renewal Unit*

- Programmes:
 - Futurebuilders
 - Change Up
 - CCBR: Firm Foundations



Regional Assemblies

About Urban Forum

Urban Forum is an umbrella body for community and voluntary groups with interests in urban and regional policy, especially regeneration. It was set up in 1994 as the national voluntary organisation through which local and central government could relate to the community and voluntary sectors on such issues. Constituency includes national, regional and local voluntary and community organisations. In addition, it has close connections with public and private sector bodies, local authorities, academic institutions and consultants amongst others. The aims of urban forum are to provide a strong voluntary sector voice on urban and regional policy and the promotion of sustainable regeneration initiatives. Special emphasis is placed on consultation and on encouraging equal opportunities for more marginalised communities. For further information contact, Tel: 020 7253 4816, E-mail: info@urbanforum.org.uk, Website: www.urbanforum.org.uk

Final Session

In the final session we looked at two key questions. Below are the responses to these questions:

1) What are the key issues for women in Regeneration?

- Women cannot afford/ allowed to work
- Need to recognise different women's backgrounds
- Institutional discrimination/ human rights abuses
- Women's Health: gyno/ mental health / s + r health
- Violence
- Poverty
- Employment: women need a break!
- Housing
- Childcare / mothering
- Safe Travel
- Joined up, holistic services
- Women having access to information/ services
- Language issues
- Women need to know their rights



2) How can women have a stronger voice?

- More money and acknowledgement for women's groups
- More women leadership in community
- More women consultants that can help other women
- More women on regeneration boards
- Provide networks and briefings
- Equal pay and opportunities
- Lobby for more women councillors
- Educating people
- Research into women's needs
- More women supported (money for groups to join LSPs etc) to get involved in community events and activities



- Networking for women's groups in local area
- Friendly, accepting environment locally
- Support different communities of women to get involved
- Find ways to feed front line expertise into policy

About WNVP Project



Women's Neighbourhood Volunteering Project was a three-year project funded by the Home Office to improve women's volunteering opportunities particularly in regeneration activities in Tower Hamlets, Newham and Haringey. The project ended in March 2005. For more information please contact Wendy Davis on Tel: 0207 490 5210 or e-mail wdavis@wds.org.uk.