



What would 'success' look like for the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and how will we know?

Fiona Myers, NHS Health Scotland

Jill Muirie, GCPH

This workshop

Given the risks and opportunities it is important to evaluate and report the impacts of the Act, and how this fits with wider work on community engagement.

But it is a big, complex area – and we are really interested in what you would like to see in an evaluation framework.

So, in this workshop, we will discuss:

- what would be signs that the Act is ‘working’, and for whom?
- what are your hopes/fears about un/intended outcomes of this part?
- any other relevant evaluation work that is planned?

12 Sections

1. National outcomes
2. Community planning
3. Participation requests
4. Community Rights to buy land
5. Asset Transfer requests
6. Delegation of Forestry Commission Functions
7. Football clubs
8. Common good property
9. Allotments
10. Participation in public decision-making
11. Non-domestic rates
12. General

Which parts of the Act are likely to matter the most through a communities and inequalities lens?

Our suggestions would be the following but we welcome your views:

- **Part 2: community planning** – requirement to engage with communities; address inequalities of outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage, LOIPs/Locality plans
- **Part 3: Participation Requests:** enables communities to request to participate in decisions and processes that are aimed at improving public service outcomes. Gives community bodies a *power* to initiate dialogue, and a *right* to have their views properly considered

Parts (cont)

- **Part 4: Community Right to Buy:** extended to all of Scotland, urban and rural. Also makes provision for community bodies to purchase neglected, abandoned or detrimental land where owner not willing to sell
- **Part 5: Asset Transfer Requests:** introduces a *right* for Community Transfer Bodies to be allowed to request to buy, lease or make use of land or buildings owned (or leased) by certain public sector bodies

But what about?

- Part 8: Common Good Property
- Part 9: Allotments
- Part 10: Participation in public decision making
- Part 11: Non-domestic rates

Lots of assumptions

- That communities, including disadvantaged communities will want to, and *can* engage, participate or take over land etc.
- That these processes will generate positive outcomes for communities
- Consensus model of communities

Discussion

Consider the part(s) of the Act that are relevant to your interest, experience and/or role:

- what would be signs that the Act is 'working', and for whom?
- what are your hopes/fears about un/intended outcomes of this part?
- any other relevant evaluation work that is planned?