

Question 1 – What factors are important to map and why? How can mapping support the equitable distribution of resources and effective prioritisation and targeting of need?

- Map potential new services
- Map access to services – Transport (rural) – Venue costs
- Map involvement with Local Councils and other Statutory Organisations
- Map from grass roots up
- Map needs of all women in rural community - a) Older women; b) Single mothers; c) Women going back to work [encouraging training and childcare needs]
- Map health needs, mental health, vulnerable, socially excluded
- Map linkage with statutory services ie Trust areas, organisations supporting women's needs
- Map service
- Map benefits and outputs
- Confidence building
- Identify community needs
- Provides opportunities for volunteering
- Reduces domestic violence
- Meeting needs of rural areas because not provided
- Assisting migrant women
- Proper and affordable childcare enables women to go out to work
- Identify women not already in women's groups especially in rural areas
- Supporting women in business, contributing to the economy
- Mapping based on rural/urban needs – Transport, care provision, geographical, employment
- Accurate information (not just local council data for instance)
- Funding – long-term and sustainable – following good practice and successful projects
- Ongoing consultation with groups and women in general
- Mapping to avoid duplication
- Identify gaps and opportunities eg sharing of facilities and resources
- Funding – sustainability (always innovative?)
- Childcare availability and affordability and quality
- Transport – accessibility of services
- Mapping should be comprehensive and realistic
- Geographical equity
- Evaluate the work of existing groups and past groups
- Meeting diverse needs eg working women, ethnic minorities, disability, sexual orientation, age etc
- Skills & experience/community development – economic contribution
- Services provided
- Map services which have gone due to lack of funding
- Perception of various groups – change attitudes and raise awareness
- Connections with local councils and other statutory agencies eg InvestNI etc
- Need to know what funding is available

Question 2 – To what extent has government funding met the needs which are identified by communities to whom services are provided? What factors should government consider when trying to ensure the effective use of limited resources and how may this change over time?

- Part-funded projects – short-term funding projects
 - Major problem of sustainability and stability
 - Problems with projects having time to evolve & develop new services
 - New funding quite often demands innovation
 - Problem with government setting priorities
 - Need to be able to have funding quicker in order to respond to need – Problem with getting funding in arrears
 - Have given core funding to women’s groups and childcare and this needs to continue and be built on
 - Look at what has already been successful – don’t lose trained people and skills and knowledge and structures already there
 - Limited resources – will this change if there is an economic upturn?
 - If we cope we are left to do that – Abuse of good will
 - Small pots of money carefully targeted can make a big difference
 - Red tape – money needs to be released quicker – DARD need to be transparent about their agenda
 - Lack of flexibility once funding has been secured
 - Projects can’t carry funding over – resources wasted/lost to the community
 - Difficult to measure extent to which government has met needs especially in rural areas ie FAST rural transport
 - Funding only short-term and not sustainable - £500 what can you do with that
 - Difference across council areas – approach by different councils varies
 - Factors – different needs in different areas
 - Consider different barriers across region
 - Look at existing groups and supply funding for networks to develop at grass roots
 - Share resources with other community groups
 - Tap on existing skills among women and maximise then feed to regional networks – continually building skills
 - Changes – ie sharing resources – if one group finishes will impact on all
 - All resources/capital to be supported
 - Human capital
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Physical
- Security of these
- Funding needs to be ‘sensible’ and doesn’t compel groups to change ethos
 - Funding must be timely – internal differences within departments shouldn’t impact on community groups

 - Funding has not met the needs – Do they know their application forms are incomprehensible?
 - Must know the buzz words
 - Must meet their perceptions of need

- Not met needs in monitoring
- Simplify application forms – provide training
- Government do not look at women as a priority
- Aim of becoming sustainable is not easy
- Government departments send women to other departments (Pass the buck)
- In 2005 last funding received from DSD to women (networks) then passed to DARD (rural), DARD did not give any funding
- Underlying the contribution of women
- Small grants are effective
- Effective use of resources
- Redistributing concession fares – lifeline
- Why limited resources? Why should we feel the pinch?? Why should we allow greedy bankers to thrive?
- Lots of waste
- Duplication
- Government should look at Service level agreements
- Look at government's attitudes towards women
- Women are excellent role models and not valued
- Develop more communication links
- Partnership in sharing of finances
- What difference is funding achieving?
- Delays in getting the funding out to groups

- Funding limited – not sufficient
- Short term
- Target driven not SMART
- Small grant availability
- Grandparents and carers of elderly abused
- Voluntary contribution abused and undervalued – including management committees
- Government should consider multiple deprivation areas and local community stats
- SLA's – developed
- Ongoing IT upskilling – OAP's
- Requirements - over justification – a good service, not broken so why fix?
- Red tape – time consuming
- Need rationalisation of groups
- Payment in arrears
- Clawback – threats
- Moving goal posts
- Women's groups promote wellbeing
- Funding advisory committee

Question 3. What is the unique contribution of women's groups and organisations? What steps might women's groups and organisations take to ensure the effective use of limited resources? How may this change over time?

- Give of time freely – massive contribution

- Tackle social exclusion & isolation in rural/urban areas
 - Dissemination of information (informally too)
 - Intergenerational skill sharing
 - Developing and sustaining communities
 - Promoting peace and reconciliation
 - Family support and peer learning education
 - Encourage women into public life
 - Exist on small amounts of funding (manage and survive)
 - Encourage women to try something new
 - Has a knock-on effect through family and community
 - Already taking all necessary steps to use limited resources – any less we would be going on nothing
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- Unique contribution – meet needs of local community
 - Peace builders
 - Vital to local economy
 - Gateway for progress
 - Try to crack glass ceiling
 - Encourage women into leadership roles
 - Develop self esteem & confidence
 - Tackle/reduce social exclusion/isolation
 - Social deprivation
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- Use of resources – clear aims
 - Use of volunteers
 - Good monitoring and evaluation practices
 - Already doing it
 - Appropriate action plans
 - Less consultation
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- Women are right at the coal face – peacemakers
 - Voluntary contribution never measured
 - Women tackle the needs that are not met by statutory bodies
 - More co-operation with local councils
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- Contribution – Local and meet needs of rural/urban – meet local needs as know area
 - Flexible
 - Consistent
 - Cross-community – peace building
 - Friendship/trust
 - Education
 - Increasing skills
 - Strength in numbers
 - Can be under an umbrella
 - No stigma
 - Meet social needs

Loughry College, 11th June 2010 – Flipchart Notes

- Electing own committee
- Own identity
- Give confidence to break down barriers
- Downfall – can be stereotyped – cooking,, sewing, women are not progressing to other bodies
- Ensure effective use of resources by meeting needs of groups – community development
- Ensuring opportunities to practice skills
- Partnership with other groups – to access funding
- Trying to survive but struggling with little funding
- Trying to plan a programme with low income
- Maximising skilled tutors with no pay
- Need more collaboration at local council level
- Amalgamation – no more layers
- More outreach facilities
- Bargaining/lobbying for money