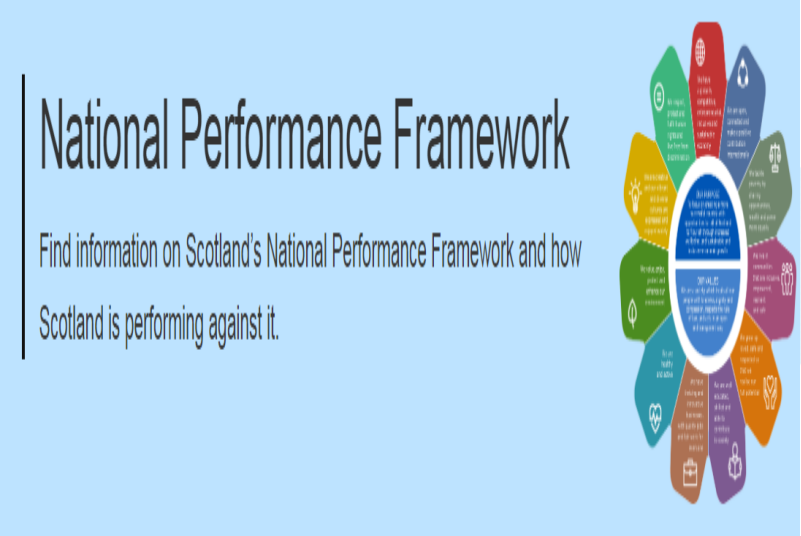
Community Empowerment

Requirement
Community Empowerment Act 2015 – CPPs to secure participation of communities with particular focus on inequalities

Public Health Priority
#1 Vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities but underpins more than place!

Outcome



Scrutiny Expectations

Principles for community empowerment

Principles for community empowerment

1. **Community control**
   Support communities to successfully take more control over decisions and assets

   Public bodies support communities to successfully take greater control over decisions and assets. Effective processes are in place and public bodies support a fair and sustainable approach.

2. **Public sector leadership**
   Strong and clear leadership on community empowerment sets the tone and culture of the organisation

   Leaders provide a clear and consistent message, set clear objectives and priorities, encourage ideas and innovation, community leadership and support communities to develop sustainable approaches.

3. **Effective relationships**
   Build effective working relationships between public bodies, local communities and local partners

   There is a healthy working relationship between communities, public bodies and local partners, marked by reciprocal trust, openness and transparency.

4. **Improving outcomes**
   Evaluate whether outcomes for local communities are improving and inequalities are being reduced

   Public bodies are continuously improving their approach to community empowerment, evaluating local outcomes and experiences and learning from others. This includes evaluating the impact on local inequalities and understanding and learning from the experiences of seldom heard groups in communities.

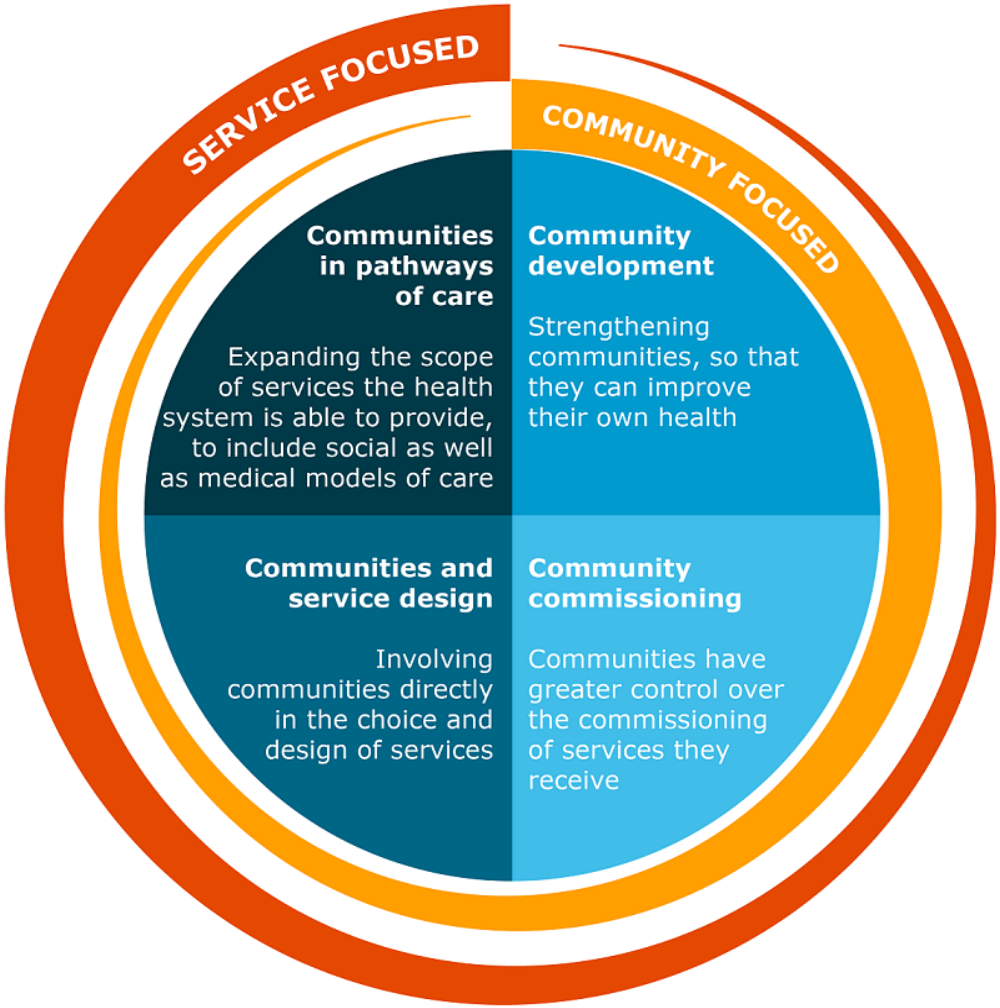
5. **Accountability**
   Be accountable and transparent

   Public bodies are clear and open about their approach to community empowerment and provide regular information to communities that is understandable, jargon-free and accessible. Public bodies are responsive to local communities when reaching decisions with a clear rationale for making difficult decisions and provide regular feedback.

Current position - Community Health

- All HI Teams actively engaged in Community Planning Partnerships – widespread advocacy actions
- Most Boards routinely commission activity from Third Sector Interface - added value of sector in delivery of outcomes
- Priority determined by local Board/ HSCP priorities with sizable variations
- Capacity and capability of the HI workforce determines the nature of the approach and the level of engagement
- The partnership infrastructure and capacity of local organisations is generally regarded as reduced and insufficient to robustly engage with / build capacity of communities.

Building Community Health



- Create a strategic focus on community health – national and local
- Coherent rationale (evidence and impact) for investment in community health with policy makers
- Workforce Development to support community health
- Core set of tools and techniques

SHPMs

Kings Fund 2013

Developing Action: Public Health Role

- What role can public health leadership and advocacy play in strengthening community empowerment nationally?
- How can public health leaders facilitate community empowerment as part of a whole system approach?
- How can we ensure that we develop effective partnerships with local agencies and communities to deliver community empowerment?
- How can we best advocate for community empowerment within the public sector ? (starting within the NHS?)