

Active citizens and the value of volunteering

How can I be an active citizen and volunteer?

Communities in control: real people, real power was launched on 9 July 2008. This White Paper is about passing power to communities and giving real control and influence to more people. Please visit www.communities.gov.uk for more information.

We would like to encourage community groups to discuss and feedback to us about the topics raised in the White Paper. Please use this topic discussion guide in conjunction with the Community Power Pack which is also available from our website.

Points to consider

We have a strong tradition of voluntary and community action in this country and there are many voluntary organisations that enrich our society.

There are many inspiring individuals and community groups who fight for issues that concern them in order to bring about real improvements in their communities.

We want to make it easier for people to find out about opportunities to be involved in this type of activity, and to encourage them to do so if they want to.

Key policies

- **A £70 million 'Communitybuilders' programme.** This aims to secure the future of community-led organisations through providing funding to develop local capacity and investing in locally led and designed projects
- **Supporting citizenship education for young people and adults** through the citizenship curriculum and a 'Take Part' local pathfinder programme offering training and information on how to be an active citizen

- **Supporting volunteering** by exploring how those on benefits can be supported in taking up volunteering opportunities, investing in opportunities for people with disabilities to volunteer and extending mentoring and befriending.

Questions for discussion

- In your view has the White Paper captured the correct points on the value of volunteering and active citizens?
- How far do you think that these policies will address the issues raised?
- What more do you think needs to be done to address these issues?