

NDTi Insights give you the most important bits of learning from a piece of work by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi). We aim to make them quick to read; they point to more detailed materials for those who want more information.

# Commissioning for Inclusion Materials

## Who should read this?

This report is mainly aimed at public sector commissioners although it will be of interest to a range of people.

## Background

This report sets out a way of approaching public sector commissioning which helps to ensure that a broad range of opportunities and supports are available for older and disabled people.

## Purpose of Report

To provide public sector commissioners with some background on the areas they might prioritise and some recommendations for practical steps that they should consider taking.

## Plain English summary

This Insights is about how commissioners (people who plan and buy services) can help make sure that services help people to live good lives in their communities. Sometimes the way that services are planned means disabled and older people are kept apart from the rest of society. This report suggests eight things that commissioners can do that will help people to build friendships and support and be included in their community.

## Main findings

- Commissioners need to have knowledge of community resources that already exist before they can develop a strategy for increasing inclusion. They need to work with other professionals, front-line staff and local people to build up a picture of the community.
- It is not just about traditional health and social care services – commissioning for social inclusion recognises that universal and community services need to be accessible to all.
- Community inclusion can be an important part of the prevention agenda in health and social care as it enables people to use their own time and resources to help them stay independent for as long as possible.
- This approach is in part about empowering local people to provide support to others, but is also about enabling older and disabled people to contribute to community life. Commissioning which focuses on building community capacity and encourages and strengthens community action, is an important aspect of this approach.
- When financial resources are scarce the arguments for working together to make the most of all the resources in a locality are stronger than ever.



**Further NDTi Insights:**

Also available in our Insights series is:

- Commissioning services for people with learning disabilities who challenge services

Other Insights being published soon will cover:

- Age Equality
- Mental Health wellbeing

<http://www.ndti.org.uk/publications/ndti-insights/>

**This report**

A copy of the full report is available at:

<http://www.ndti.org.uk/publications/ndti-publications/>

For information on Inclusion Programme, please visit the NDTi website

<http://www.ndti.org.uk/how-we-do-it/training/inclusion-programme/> or call Steve Strong on 01225 789135 or

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**Conclusions and key messages**

- This guidance sets out ‘Eight Essential Actions’ which underpin an effective approach to commissioning for community inclusion. These are:
  - Know your community
  - Commission jointly
  - Think co-production
  - Hand over control to people and communities
  - Focus on outcomes not processes
  - Develop the market
  - Think about workforce and leadership
  - Communicate and enthuse
- It emphasises the importance of a planned approach to this area of activity, possibly based on a process of self-assessing or co-producing a picture of the current position. Involving people and communities in the commissioning process leads to smarter solutions. It makes sense to commission services that people really need and want and to make the most of the knowledge and skills in the community.
- There are many examples of good practice already taking place – this report highlights a number of them
- Commissioners should prioritise some ‘quick wins’ in order to get momentum going. Timebanks could be an example of this.
- Keep co-production at the heart of the planning and delivery of this area of activity – and communicate success. Communication should run through every part of a strategy for community inclusion. This should include a communication strategy that uses local case studies and positive stories.

