



# **LINK BETWEEN IDeA, NEA AND NORTH WEST REP**

Sue Oppenheimer – Strategic Advisor  
Network of Empowering Authorities (NEA)  
Improvement and Development Agency

6/10/09

NWREP meeting

# IDeA - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



Run by the sector for the sector

- supports improvement and innovation in local government
- works with councils in developing good practice
- supports and challenges local authorities through councillor and officer peers
- delivers leadership programmes
- works closely with councils in their areas and supports the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs).

[www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

# WHAT IS THE NEA AND THE FRAMEWORK?



- Network of Empowering Authorities (NEA) started July 2008
- Part of NEP National Empowerment Programme
- 18 councils – 2 in each region
- The NEA is:
  - developing own learning
  - pushing the boundaries of learning
  - cascading to the wider sector
- First output - framework/benchmark

# FIVE PILLARS OF AN EMPOWERED AUTHORITY



- Mainstreaming – achieving culture change in councils and partnerships
- Working with communities and neighbourhoods
- The role of Members in Community Empowerment
- Building the evidence and business case for community empowerment
- Integrating community empowerment with equalities, community cohesion and human rights

# NEA and IDeA'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME



**Hubs – on 5 Pillars**

**Peer Support**

**Consultancy support – e.g Action Learning Sets**

**IDeA Knowledge**

- empowerment
- connecting with communities

**Better community engagement and empowerment – Community of Practice**

**Guidance**

- Councillor Call for Action guidance
- Comprehensive Engagement Strategies

# DEVELOPING THE LINKS



- Where are the connections between the NEA programme, and regional programmes?
- We have looked at NWREP action plan and identified possible connections.
- What follows is just a snapshot

# IDeA/NEA & NW REP LINKS

## Pillar 1 - Mainstreaming



Action	Link
Community Empowerment seminars for senior staff in public authorities on meeting the Duty to Involve	<p><b>CoP</b> – could post learning on CoP, or use CoP to progress learning</p>
Action Learning Sets	<p><b>Support</b> – IDeA could facilitate an ALS for you</p> <p><b>CoP</b> – ALS members could join CoP</p> <p><b>Web</b> – case studies could be linked to web</p> <p><b>Framework</b> – could use as basis for work</p>

# IDeA/NEA & NW REP LINKS

## Pillar 2 Communities & Neighbourhoods



Action	Link
Some targeted support to specific councils will include looking at how those councils work with communities and neighbourhoods	<p><b>Web</b> – case studies</p> <p><b>Hub</b> – tools e.g for mapping engagement</p> <p><b>CoP</b> – Councils could use CoP to share learning and problem-solve</p> <p><b>Peer</b> – peer support e.g mentoring</p>

# IDeA/NEA & NW REP LINKS

## Pillar 3 Members



<b>Action</b>	<b>Link</b>
Members from targeted authorities	<b>Peers</b> – a Member Peer could e.g. provide an inspirational presentation.

# IDeA/NEA & NW REP LINKS

## Pillar 4 Business Case



Action	Link
Research on best practice on empowerment initiatives e.g PB, Community Charters	<b>Web</b> – link to research once published <b>Hub</b> – use Business Case Framework to evaluate

# TAKING IT FORWARD



- The REP/RIEPs could add to table
- Meetings in each region to discuss taking forward joining up
- You can commission IDeA to support your work e.g Action Learning Sets, Peer support
- Any other ideas? Over to you.....

# MORE INFORMATION



You can find out more about community engagement and empowerment at:

[www.idea.gov.uk/empowerment](http://www.idea.gov.uk/empowerment)

You can join the Better Engagement & Empowerment Community of Practice at:

[www.communities.idea.gov.uk](http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk)

Or contact me:

E. [sue.oppenheimer@idea.gov.uk](mailto:sue.oppenheimer@idea.gov.uk)