

4b1

Capacity-Building

Do

Do anything that will expand the ability of the host community to understand and welcome people who need support.

Story

When a group of people with learning disabilities offered to fence to gardens in a deprived part of Bridgend, they helped residents to feel pride in their local area, made friends with the householders and encouraged them to spend more time in their new gardens and so get to know their neighbours. *(Bates & Davis 2004)*

Anna wanted to go to the hairdressers, but the salon wasn't open when she was free. Negotiation led to the hairdresser agreeing to try a late opening evening each week.

4b1

Capacity-Building

Hints & Hazards

Initial contact may lead to concerns felt by members of the host community about extra demands for time or resources being placed upon them. Introduce procedures that will benefit everyone and have even more benefit for people who need support, e.g. flexitime working.

Encourage organisations to become friendship-friendly by asking people to work in pairs and small groups and encouraging social events. Local capacity building often does not conform to a grand regional plan. Learn about each community, street or person and think small.

Ask yourself 'what will make the difference in this street or to this person?'