

Guidelines for a Community Audit

1 Deciding What Things You Need to Know

You cannot find out everything about the community, so it is important that you focus at this stage. Examples of what you might need to know include:

- The People:**
- How many people live in the area?
 - What proportion work?
 - What proportion are unemployed?
 - What is the age profile?
 - What is the ethnic profile?
 - How do people feel about living in the area?
- Services:**
- What services are available in the community? (doctors, shops, schools, social services etc.)
 - How adequate are they?
 - What services do people have to travel outside of the community to reach?
 - What voluntary services are there?
 - What facilities are there for the group you are interested in? (eg. play areas for children)
- Environment:**
- What are the main housing types?
 - What condition are they in?
 - What under-used resources are there? (empty houses, shops, old schools)

2 Getting the Information

Some may be available at the library, or from the census. The local authority will keep some statistics on the area. Some things you will be able to find out by walking round.

You may decide to use a questionnaire; this requires skill, and it is best to get specialist advice; the local council for voluntary service may be able to help.

3 Analysing the Information

This means ordering it so that it answers the questions you were asking.