

Case Study

Learn how one area discovered their strengths and weaknesses

Identifying the issues

Sunderland Partnership volunteered to pilot the North East Standard for Excellence. The pilot was carried out from January to March 2010. This was very difficult to steer as the key members of this partnership had at the same time decided that they were going to climb Kilimanjaro in order to raise money for charity, and so preparations and indeed training for this trip was a major preoccupying feature which made it very difficult to get the commitment to, and attention which the pilot required.

Intervention

After consultation with the Chair and Partnership Manager a series of workshops were held with a range of the groups within the partnership to harness people's experiences of using the pilot and to have focus group discussion about the positive and negative aspects of using a tool and methodology of this kind.

The findings of the workshops were analysed and evaluated and a final document was prepared giving an overall rating about the partnership's experience of using the model. The key finding was the partnership discovered their key strengths and weaknesses through using the model. They were surprised and pleased to learn that they were a partnership whose core values included the primacy of relationships and values to the foundation of the partnership

Benefits

The opportunity to test and validate the model in real life was widely welcomed. This also gave solidity and testimonial to the value of using a standard and led to the creation of additional experimentation with the concept of partnership self assessment including a trial of 360 degree feedback.