

Session Notes: Connecting for Social Change

Speakers / Panel members: David Rossington Local Democracy & Empowerment Director, DCLG, the DCLG Young Advisors, Street:Live, Young People from Envision, Alice Casey (Involve),

This 'world café' session started with a table debate which asked the question "People don't connect with each other or get involved in community projects because..." Participants worked together to find an answer to this question, and jotted down their thoughts as they went.



The second question asked: "It's 2012, people of all ages and backgrounds are involved in their community. What did we do to make this happen?"

This part of the session took the form of a speed networking session, where delegates moved around the room and interacted with each other.

Each table then had the opportunity of feeding back to the group.

The Feedback for this Session:

- There is a barrier to communication- one reason is that people are moving around more.
- People no longer need to speak to other people for information - for information we can now go online.
- People generally have busier lifestyles, and have no time to volunteer.
- Perhaps more work could be done to make volunteering more flexible.





- There is no real structure to engage in social change.
- Some people may lack confidence, and feel that their input is not valid.
- There should be more opportunity to celebrate the success of social change.
- Role models can galvanise groups of people, they do not need to be famous.
- There should be more focus on local action- small things = big change (James, Envision).

Quotes from participants:

David Rossington, Communities and Local Government

'Having conversations and making connections really can change the world'

Micheal Stickland, Electic Productions

'... opportunities to go forward with more linked-up work'

Marian Brooker

'most innovative event I've ever been to'

Further information:

www.Involve.org.uk

www.Envision.org.uk