

# The OPEN Project

OPEN presents a unique opportunity for those who work in the field of combating social exclusion to influence policy. This is your chance to get your voice heard! Your views are important and we would invite you to take part so that we can ensure that experience from grass root practitioners are taken into account in formulating policy.

## What is the OPEN Project?

OPEN is a two year EU funded programme led by partners from the West Midlands, and other regions in Italy, Germany and Spain. The two key aims are:

- To raise debate at a local, national and European level on how to best tackle issues around social exclusion.
- To encourage Regional and European policy makers to take action and develop the agenda around social exclusion.

The results from each workshop held at the 7th July event 'everyone matters in a sustainable community' will contribute to this work. The project will focus on the same 6 key areas:

- Children conditions, rights and protection;
- The labour market: a place that is safe and free from exploitation
- Family policies: how to ensure decent housing for everyone;
- New mechanisms to promote social and job inclusion for people with disabilities;
- Ethnic minorities and immigrants: positive actions to support tolerance and respect;
- Health and long- term care for aged people

## Project objectives:

- Open up debate around social inclusion and protection issues with organisations and individuals working at grassroots level.
- Identify some key areas of work and take this agenda to regional policy makers and EU Commissioners.
- Improve communications between grassroots organisations and strategic policy makers, ensuring voices are heard and information is accessibly provided.
- Highlight and promote best practice in the Region and amongst EU partners.
- Develop dialogue with regional media to produce quality information on social issues.

## Next Steps:

The project is now underway; we will be running a series of seminars during September and December, building on many of the issues that come from the event of 7th July 'everyone matters in a sustainable community'. The results of these will then be fed back to Regional Leaders and Policy Makers in the New Year. We will also be sharing best practice and learning with the other three project partners so as to influence EU policy development.

## Interested?

[For more information on](#) how to get involved on the OPEN programme please contact Dally Panesar at the West Midlands Regional Assembly on 0121 245 0153 or [d.panesar@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:d.panesar@wmra.gov.uk)

