

Participation Request from The Echo Steering Group – Agreed

The Echo Steering Group is a “community participation body” in terms of Section 20(1) of the Act and Dumfries and Galloway Council is a “public service authority” in terms of Section 21 and Schedule 2 of the Act. The Participation Request was assessed to comply with the Regulations and validated.

The outcome specified in the Participation Request proposed to:
provide additionality to the council's current community engagement strategy by providing a 'bottom-up' network of community- based voices and opinions.

The Council **agreed** the Participation Request on 12 March 2020.

The Decision Notice contained the following statement:

The Council has an approved Community Participation and Engagement Strategy which acknowledges the need to apply a range of methods for engaging with our citizens ([link to strategy](#)). The Council is currently working on improving the outcome specified in the Participation Request: bottom-up community engagement.

The Council has also established the Participation and Engagement Working Group which reports to the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Board. The remit of this Working Group is as follows:-

- ***to develop a co-ordinated programme of participation and engagement activity across partners;***
- ***identify opportunities for joint engagement work to maximise links between related issues and reduce costs;***
- ***to share expertise and experience across partners;***
- ***publicise the engagement opportunities available from local partners and feedback published through a regular newsletter; and***
- ***oversee the development and working of the Participation and Engagement Network.***

An integral part of the Working Group is the Dumfries and Galloway Participation and Engagement Network (PEN). The PEN is a key approach for citizens, community groups, patients and carers to get involved in improving local services in Dumfries and Galloway. The PEN would benefit from an increased number and more active participants to give it a stronger voice. The PEN is a key part of the engagement work of the Council, the NHS, the Health and Social Care Partnership and has the potential for its members to have greater involvement than at present.

The Council proposed that the Outcome Improvement Process for the Echo Steering Group is to have a place on the Dumfries and Galloway Participation and Engagement Network (PEN); and be a partner in the process of improving outcomes for bottom up engagement, sharing the journey with the Council and its partners.

This is the outcome improvement journey that the Council is currently engaged in and the Echo Steering Group, as a working partner, could fully contribute to improving outcomes by sharing its experience and views of its service users.

The Council expects the Echo Steering Group to bring its knowledge and experience of local community needs and wishes to the Process.

Participation Request applicants are entitled to make written submissions in relation to modifying the proposed Outcome Improvement process. Any such submission must be made within 28 days of the date of this Decision Notice.