



Case Study: Greater Manchester Police PB



Wythenshawe Safe Spots: Participatory Budgeting Event

The Wythenshawe Safespots was launched in 2014 in an attempt to tackle domestic abuse in the area and help victims seek the help and support they need. The project is led by local women from Wythenshawe, all of whom have themselves experienced domestic abuse. They have used their personal experiences to influence and negotiate with police, partner agencies and local businesses to set up and support the safe spots scheme.

From this work the Safespots team (SST) identified the need for services to be provided locally in Wythenshawe for local survivors. They worked to secure funding from GMP of approximately £50k and decided that this would be allocated through a PB event. This is where local communities vote for the organisations applying for funding at a public event and funding is allocated on the community vote.

The team required training on how to run and manage a PB event and this was delivered by MutualGain (MG). The training commenced in September 2015 when additional support was provided by PCSOs from GMP and the support worker from M4C. There were five support sessions that included:

- A vision meeting - the Safespots team, MG & M4C and local organisations met to understand the vision that SST had for their Drop In centre – “what would an excellent domestic abuse service look like”?
- Four PB training sessions were provided for the SST with ongoing support by email and telephone

The SST agreed that the training and the support delivered by MG was outstanding. They agreed that PB was an exciting development in partnership work and throughout gave exceptional commitment to make the process work. They stated:

“We learnt a lot from MG and we liked their style of training”

They thought learning style was relaxed and the relationship built with the trainers was very positive and the rapport was excellent (“even when we, the team were difficult”). They felt listened to and when conflicts arose they were dealt with firmly and in a professional manner. MG trainers did not judge the SST in any way, which made them feel reassured and want to attend the training. They particularly liked the way the trainers worked together and the use of humour to reinforce learning. They said it was clear the trainers were experts in the PB process as a team they believe they learnt a lot. As one team member said “it was bloody hard work but good fun and we would do it again but not next week”.

If you think Participatory Budgeting could be a useful tool for your organisation, why not choose Mutual Gain as your partner for delivering an event or scheme of work? From a one off report for a specific consultation, or an overhaul of your current engagement activities, MutualGain has the experience and skill to deliver. For a no obligation discussion about your requirements, contact our Business Development Lead, Owen Miller: T:07835 304699 E:owen@mutualgain.org

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Whatever your engagement needs, MutualGain has the skills and experience to help you achieve your goal, whether you want to upskill your staff, meet your statutory obligations on engaging communities, or involve the public in an important decision or behavioural change -we can help you in the following ways:

Training

MutualGain provides a range of training for your employees and stakeholders, from one day courses to full capacity building packages which teach a number of different engagement techniques. All of our courses are highly customisable and we work with you to ensure your staff are learning the skills they need from people who have experience of carrying out these methods across the public and charitable sector.

Trainees rate our one day programmes at 5/5.

Supported Learning and Delivery

Our supported learning and delivery programme goes beyond the one day training to building the capacity of staff or residents to deliver engagement and listen differently to those they serve.

Our extensive experience in event delivery, coaching and partnership working, combined with our training and support packages ensures that your staff feel confident in delivering engagement events and strategies. We work with you at every stage of the planning, delivery and analysis phases to reinforce your learning and pass on best practice.

Our capacity building programme was recently evaluated by Durham University to show that social capital built through strengths based approaches delivered by MutualGain reduces crime and ASB significantly.

Our associates have worked with a variety of NHS organisations, Police, Planners, and Central Government to support engagement and commissioning staff to establish new methods of engagement and integrate them within current working practices.

Coming soon: We have just been approved as a **'centre to deliver OCN qualifications and accredited courses'**, and are in the process of securing accreditation for our supported delivery programme of training and capacity building in social capital.

Delivering your Engagement Activity for you

Don't have the time or the staff to deliver a meaningful engagement process? Our team is here to support you. We use the power of your local population to gain insight into current issues as well as areas of good practice so that you can make better, more informed decisions. From the popular technique of Participatory Budgeting to the broad learning opportunities found using the World Café method, MutualGain can deliver events and processes which will change your organisation and your stakeholders' perspectives on any 'problem'.

We'd love to talk to you about working with your organisation. For more information, please contact our Business Development Lead:

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