

Stronger Together Scorecard: Check How You Apply Community Participatory Approaches

(version 03-24/04/2026)

Instructions: Use the *draft* tool to check how well you are applying the different **Layers of Community Participation** in your work. This will help you build a clearer picture of how well these approaches are supported and highlight areas for ongoing improvement. Add your own Activities in Column 1!

1. **Rate each work “Activity” from 1 to 7:** mark your score on the matching axis of the **Radar Plot (Spidergram)**. If an activity does not include any layer of community participation, give it no score and mark it at the center of the axis. If an activity doesn’t apply to your work, leave it blank.
2. **Join up the scores** on each axis to create a full plot. The goal is to reach a score of 7 for each “Activity” over time, showing a fully community-led approach.
3. **Repeat the self-assessment regularly**, using a different colour for each assessment, to track progress or setbacks. Use the results to shape an action plan for ongoing improvement.

Check How You Apply Different Layers of Community Participation							
Activity	Recipient Score = 1	Participant Score = 2	Engage Score = 3	Collaborate Score = 4	Involve Score = 5	Co-produce Score = 6	Community-led Score = 7
Communication	Communities receive communication materials to build awareness and knowledge, but they don’t help choose the topics, shape the content, or decide how it’s shared locally.	Communities don’t help select or shape communication materials - they only give information to others to decide what’s needed, how it’s designed, and shared locally.	Communities can share their views on communication materials, but others make the final decisions about what’s needed, how it’s designed, and how it’s shared locally.	Communities can contribute to parts of the process for developing communication materials, but others decide on the topics, design, and how they’re shared locally.	Communities and partners help co-design some parts of communication materials, but communities don’t shape every part of how they’re created or shared locally.	Communities and partners co-produce communication materials, with equal say and shared control. This ensures their voices are heard and the work leads to real, positive change.	Communities take the lead in creating communication materials - choosing the topics, content, format, and how they’re shared locally—so the messages are meaningful to them.
Research	Communities are told about research but don’t help carry it out or shape how it’s done.	Communities aren’t included in planning or decision-making and are only used to providing data for research.	Communities can share their views on research, but final decisions are made by others.	Communities can contribute to some decisions, but they don’t fully shape the overall research agenda, process, and outcomes.	Communities and partners help co-design some parts of the research process - when it’s possible, useful, and timely.	Communities partner with others to co-produce research, sharing equal say and control. This helps make sure community voices are heard and the work leads to real, positive change.	Communities lead research - setting the agenda, guiding the process, and staying in control to ensure it’s meaningful to them.

Evaluation	Communities are told about service, programme, or project evaluation, but don't help carry it out or shape how it's done.	Communities aren't included in planning or decision-making and are only used to giving information for evaluation.	Communities can share their views on evaluation, but final decisions are made by others.	Communities can contribute to some decisions, but they don't fully shape the overall evaluation agenda, process, and outcomes.	Communities and partners help co-design some parts of the evaluation process - when it's possible, useful, and timely.	Communities partner with others to co-produce evaluation, sharing equal say and control. This helps make sure community voices are heard and the work leads to meaningful change.	Communities lead evaluations - setting the agenda, guiding the process, and staying in control to ensure it's meaningful to them.
Policy-making	Communities are told about policies but don't help shape or develop them.	Communities aren't involved in making policies and are only asked to give information that helps others make decisions.	Communities can share their views on policies, but the final decisions about their content are made by others	Communities can contribute to parts of policy-making, but others control how the overall process works and make the final decisions.	Communities and partners help co-design some parts of the policy-making process, but they don't have the final say in how policies are developed, agreed, and controlled by others.	Communities and partners help co-produce policies together, with equal input and shared decision-making. This means their voices are truly heard, and the work leads to meaningful, positive change.	Communities take the lead in making policy with partners - they set the agenda, steer the process, and stay in control to make sure it reflects what matters to them.
Identifying & Prioritising Needs	Communities are told about local needs and priorities but don't help identify or decide which should be prioritised.	Communities aren't involved in deciding or prioritising their own needs—only in providing information for others to decide.	Communities can share their views on important local needs, but others still make the final decisions and set priorities.	Communities can contribute to parts of identifying and prioritising local needs, but others control how the overall process works and make the final decisions.	Communities and partners help co-design some parts of the process for identifying and prioritising local needs. However, they don't have the final say in decisions made and controlled by others.	Communities and partners work together to identify and prioritise local needs, with equal input and shared decision-making. This ensures their voices are genuinely heard and helps create meaningful, positive change.	Communities take the lead in identifying and prioritising local needs alongside partners. They set the agenda, guide the process, and stay in control to make sure it reflects what matters most to them

Finding & Shaping Solutions	Communities are told about local solutions but don't take part in finding or shaping them.	Communities aren't involved in finding or shaping solutions - only in giving information for others to decide.	Communities can comment on solutions suggested by others, but they aren't involved in finding or shaping those solutions.	Communities can contribute to parts of finding and shaping local solutions, but others decide how the overall process works and make the final decisions.	Communities and partners help co-design parts of the process for finding and shaping local solutions. But they don't have the final say in decisions made and controlled by others.	Communities and partners work together to find and shape local solutions, with equal input and shared decision-making. This ensures their voices are genuinely heard and helps create meaningful, positive change.	Communities take the lead in finding and shaping local solutions alongside partners. They set the agenda, guide the process, and stay in control to make sure it reflects what matters most to them.
Planning & Shaping Projects	Communities are told about local projects but don't help plan or shape them.	Communities aren't involved in planning or shaping projects - only in giving information for others to decide.	Communities can give feedback on projects suggested by others, but they don't take part in planning or shaping those.	Communities can contribute to parts of planning and shaping projects, but others decide how the overall process works and make the final decisions.	Communities and partners help co-design parts of the process for planning and shaping projects. But they don't have the final say in decisions made and controlled by others.	Communities and partners work together to plan and shape projects, with equal input and shared decision-making. This ensures their voices are genuinely heard and helps create positive change.	Communities take the lead in planning and shaping projects alongside partners. They set the agenda, guide the process, and stay in control to make sure it reflects what matters most to them.
Commissioning	Communities are told about local commissioning but can't influence how the budget is allocated and used.	Communities aren't involved in commissioning - only in giving information for others to decide how the budget is allocated and used locally.	Communities can share their views on commissioning decisions made by others, but they don't have a say in how the local budget is allocated or spent	Communities can help identify how local budgets should be allocated and spent, but others make the final decisions.	Communities and partners help co-design parts of the process for planning how local budgets should be allocated and spent. However, final decisions are made and controlled by others.	Communities and partners work together to plan how local budgets should be allocated and spent, with equal input and shared decision-making. This means their voices are genuinely heard and the outcomes lead to meaningful, positive change.	Communities take the lead in planning how local budgets are allocated and spent, working alongside partners. They set the agenda, guide the process, and stay in control to make sure it reflects what matters most to them.

