

HELPING PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER

Community development manager



Community development managers coordinate the different groups that work with local people to improve their quality of life, often in deprived areas. It's about changing power structures, removing barriers and giving people a say about issues that affect them. You could be involved in setting up an arts project or sports club, or providing training opportunities for excluded groups. Once you've found out what a community needs, you'll be expected to promote awareness, organise events, raise funds and manage budgets. It's a varied job for someone who's passionate about equality and social justice, good with a diverse range of people, tactful, patient and persuasive. Previous community work is useful.

Degree needed

There are several ways to become a community development manager, and different employers will ask for different qualifications.

Some may ask for a minimum number of GCSE grades, including English and Maths, while others may ask for A-levels and/or a degree.

The degree may need to be in a related area, such as health studies or youth and community work. It may also be possible to train on the job and gain an NVQ in community work.

Good courses

- Foundation degree in Youth and Community (University of Staffordshire)
- BA Hons Youth and Community Work (University of Huddersfield)
- BA Hons/DipHE Youth and Community Development Work (St Martin's College, Lancaster)



Oliver Leonard at work
Project Manager, Gareth Kiddie Associates



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Facts and figures

Starting salary

From 25,000 upwards.

Working hours

A working week is usually 37 hours, but this is not a 9 to 5 job.

Days' holiday per year

25 days on average.

Skills and experience

Previous experience of community or voluntary work is useful. Good maths skills are vital, as managing budgets is a central part of the job.

Would suit

Anyone who is passionate about equality, social justice and building sustainable communities.

Likely employer types

- Local authorities
- Housing associations (registered social landlords)
- Voluntary organisations such as homelessness projects, faith groups, women's groups, environmental organisations, or mental health charities
- Regeneration partnerships
- Other statutory bodies such as primary care trusts

How many jobs available?

This is a growing field with an expanding range of organisations employing community development staff – from sports clubs that want to promote social inclusion to prestige arts projects.

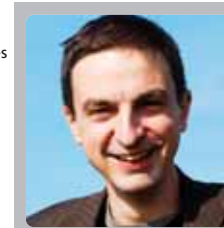
Number of people employed in this field

The Community Development Exchange supports networks of community development workers around the UK and has a membership of 370. However, there are many more people working in this area.



Meet the expert
Oliver Leonard,
Gareth Kiddie Associates

Visit AskWhatIf.co.uk to watch video diaries and get opinions from other real people doing real jobs.



"We go and talk to people, find out what they want from their communities. We don't just sit in the office and guess! They can then build on our work and take ownership."

Did you know?

Community development has been around for more than a century. Many of its roots are in the 'settlement' movement of the late 19th century, in which charities set up centres in Britain's poorest areas. Britain's oldest settlements, Oxford House and Toynbee Hall, were founded in east London in 1884.

More information

- Find out more about community development at the Community Development Exchange www.cdx.org.uk
- The Community Development Foundation provides resources on training, research, networks and general information on community development www.cdf.org.uk
- To get relevant community project experience contact Volunteering England www.volunteering.org.uk
- Information on rural community development can be found at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website www.defra.gov.uk