

GUIDESHEET

Six Stepping Stones

Nurture Development designed the **Six Stepping Stones** as a process to support community building programmes. It offers a robust framework for community building that can be tailored to any community.

Community Builders and Community Connectors are key to the Six Stepping Stones process. They are the people in the community, holding the Learning Conversations, building relationships and developing a picture of the community as a whole. As such, the process cannot and should not begin without the establishment of a Sponsorship Group and the recruitment of one or more Community Builders.

It is important not to rush through the steps:

- ⇒ While there is no set timeline for each step or the process as a whole, our experience has shown that it takes at least 18-24 months to work through all the components
- ⇒ Each step may take a different amount of time to complete; one step might take 3 times as long as the next one
- ⇒ It might help to plan each step as a programme in itself acknowledging that each step may include multiple activities and events
- ⇒ Try not to plan every detail of all the steps at once. Each step will reveal new things about your community, the people within it and the gifts and assets that they are willing to contribute to the community building efforts
- ⇒ You may need to revisit some steps time and time again
- ⇒ You may not need to complete all of the steps
- ⇒ The process can (and should) be repeated regularly to make sure that the community remains as open and inclusive as possible towards all of its members

Given the nuances of the Six Stepping Stones process, the Nurture Development Project Guide will provide mentoring, training and coaching to Community Builders throughout.

Sponsorship Groups are also supported by Nurture Development Project Guides to develop a long term and sustainable plan to make sure that all of the great work established through Asset Based Community Development is maintained beyond the scope of the commissioned programme.

Related FACTSHEETS:

- ⇒ **FACTSHEET: The building blocks of community**
- ⇒ **FACTSHEET: Community Builders**
- ⇒ **FACTSHEET: Community Connectors**
- ⇒ **FACTSHEET: Sponsorship Groups**

