

*Trevor Burchick MBE of Proud City gets his authored literature & learning resource iPAC (Individual Profile in Active Citizenship), as awarded by City and & Guilds, into the new National Pathfinder Programme*

### **Take Part Pathfinder starts off in South Yorkshire**

The **Take Part Pathfinder** project is one of several across the country that are encouraging groups and individuals to work together within communities to develop and promote effective ways of empowering citizens with knowledge, skills and confidence to increase engagement in civil, civic and democratic activity.

The seven core partners in the South Yorkshire Pathfinder are:

Workers' Educational Association (WEA) **The lead body**  
Rotherham Metropolitan Council  
Barnsley Metropolitan Council  
and Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council  
The Take Part Network  
The Novas Scarman Trust  
The Academy for Community Leadership (Northern College)

The first year's work will include a range of citizenship learning activities in the communities, residential programmes at Northern College, visits to Westminster in February 2009 and a Regional Campaigning Road Show. There will also be community led information gathering and database building, website development, production of publicity and learning materials, **development of the iPAC (Individual Profile in Active Citizenship) accreditation** and general development work in the localities to provide a basis for activities in the following two years.

Signs are that this will be a lively, exciting project which will help advance the empowerment agenda, strengthen democracy locally and support people into new roles and activities in their communities. The Pathfinder is funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government and supported by the Regional Empowerment Partnership. Councils and groups across the country are being invited to join in the Take Part Pathfinder programme with funding being provided in the region of £100k in year one and £120k in year two as can be seen by the approaches in the South West and other regions:-

<http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk/regeneration-renewal-news-396-thread-0-0.html>

Proud City Co-operative is delighted that the iPAC success has been part of creating these new jobs and wishes all the DCLG supported new partnerships success in rolling out these important steps, taking the Take Part Pathfinder programme into the hearts of communities as can be seen in Exeter where 3 new posts have been created to run the new programme:-

<http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk/regeneration-renewal-news379.html>

**As part of its preparation for this exciting new partnership project, Exeter CVS is seeking to employ the following staff from January 2009 until March**

**2011: Development Worker and Tutor - 28 hrs a week. Information and Publicity Officer - 21 hrs a week. Project Administrator - 21 hrs a week.**

Projected nationally the new job opportunities are seen as an excellent well timed boost to local and regional employment that will provide more people with quality skills, awards and a collection of exciting, new opportunities including using the iPAC resource to help improve and expand knowledge and partnerships including on important topics such as Mental Health, Physical Wellbeing, Social Inclusion, and a range of intergenerational lifestyle activities from taking part in organising Amateur Sports to getting into Local Governance.

South Yorkshire is the first Pathfinder area, other Take Part areas across the country are expected to follow, including in the North West – where Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) are part of the core partnership that has already signed up to use the iPAC. Exeter has made approaches to use the iPAC learning resource authored by Trevor Burchick MBE as part of Proud City Co-operative community development services and with investment from the **Futurebuilders England** organisation follows years of research and development including practical application in areas of Salford, Yorkshire and London during extensive pilot stages.

The fuller article on the South Yorkshire Pathfinder news and its connective articles are on page three of the following link: -

<http://www.yhep.org.uk> (Click on the links Update 3)

*(The following helps explain the Take Part Pathfinder with acknowledgment to the website where the fuller article appears in the [www.bme.org.uk](http://www.bme.org.uk)): -*

## **1 What is a Take Part Pathfinder?**

The Take Part Pathfinder presents a serious opportunity for partnerships of local authorities, specialist citizenship organisations, groups and individuals to work together at a community level on the task of finding effective ways of empowering citizens with knowledge, skills and confidence to increase engagement in civil, civic and democratic activity.

The programme will be designed so that it can support improvement against National Indicators 3 (civic participation in the local area – narrowing gaps between groups in order to raise involvement of disadvantaged sections of society) and 4 (people feeling that they can influence decisions in their locality). The outcomes are therefore likely to be:

- *An increase in levels of participation in civic activism, consultation and civic participation; and in community leadership roles.*
- *Increased skills and confidence for participation among citizens, particularly those from more disadvantaged communities.*

**The aims of the Take Part local pathfinder programme will be:**

- *To build the skills and confidence of local people so that they can pursue civic activism, community leadership and lay governance roles (including those of local councillors)*
- *To support people and organisations in developing an understanding of barriers to participation, and how to overcome those barriers*
- *To raise awareness of routes into lay governance roles, especially those involving LSP partners, and to support people in their progression through those routes*
- *Create easy access to accreditation where required by the participant*

**The Take Part local pathfinder programme will work on a partnership basis with third sector, business and Local Strategic Partners in their areas, to develop local programmes of activity that would include the following components:**

- *Programmes of learning that build skills and confidence, within a community context – this would include active shared learning, leading to increased individual and collective voices, action and influence*
- *A community leadership programme that offers tailored support into civic activism and/or lay governance roles*
- *Information about the availability of opportunities for influence and lay governance roles across the public sector in the locality, and support for greater mobility between such roles*
- *Access to accreditation for citizenship learning and skills development where it is required*

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Trevor Burchick MBE was awarded Honorary Membership of City and Guilds in 2007 for his work in authoring the iPAC (Individual Profile in Active Citizenship) and on it being approved as one of the 500 leaning skills schemes in the City & Guilds Education & Training portfolio.