

DWP & OXFAM LIVELIHOODS TRAINING PROJECT

Antonina Mendola & Vicky Goodban

8th November 2017

OXFAM – WHAT WE DO

- Works with numerous partners across Wales, UK and internationally
- UK Programme:
 - Women United
 - Wales: Sanctuary in Wales, Building Livelihoods & Strengthening Communities, DWP & Oxfam Livelihoods Project, Skills for Life
- Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
- Policy, advocacy and campaigning
- Media and communications- challenging myths



POVERTY IN WALES

- **1 in 4 people in Wales** live in poverty -700,000 people
- **1 in 3 children** live in poverty
- **1 in 4 workers** in Wales are paid less than the Living Wage
- Only **27% of children in receipt of Free School Meals achieve A-C grades** at GCSE in English, Welsh, Maths compared with 61% for non-Free School Meals pupils
- **85,656 people** were given 3 days emergency food in 2015/16
- **50%** of working age population **lack basic numeracy skills** and **25% basic literacy skills**
- **1 in 4 people** have a **mental health problem**
- **46%** of social housing tenants are **digitally excluded**

This picture hasn't changed much in 10 years

A SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

‘The capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living’

‘A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, and maintain its assets and capabilities, both now and in the future...’

Adapted from Chambers and Conway, 1992



KEY CONCEPTS OF THE SLA

- Everyone has varying degrees of assets in their life. When combined they create a livelihood. However, for those with fewer assets a sustainable livelihood is not possible, leaving people vulnerable to internal and external “shocks”.
- People with the least number of assets are more likely to be those who are most likely to experience social exclusion and discrimination.
- Often support services focus only upon a single aspect of someone’s life, such as their income or earnings. Other factors that also impact, such as family and caring responsibilities, are not considered.
- The Sustainable Livelihood Approach uses positive language to uncover what would enable people to develop their potential and capacity within their existing assets and livelihood strategies



OXFAM'S USE OF THE SLA

- Initially mostly focused on rural development in the southern hemisphere. External evaluations showed signs of success.
- Oxfam-funded Ruti Irrigation Project in Zimbabwe: effectiveness review showed increased household income, assets and ability to meet household needs.
- But could SLA be applied to more urban and Northern contexts?



SLA IN WALES

- **Building Livelihoods and Strengthening Communities in Wales** project, funded by the Big Lottery and Oxfam, delivered by nine local partner organisations in communities across Wales between 2012 and 2016.
- Used the **Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA)**
- The project **changed the lives of over 1,100** people across Wales
- **1-to-1 support (intensive or non)** to take stock of their lives and access the help they need to make positive changes for themselves
- Demonstrated an impressive **return-on-investment of £4.43 for every £1 spent.**



SLA PRINCIPLES

1. Be people-centred
2. Be holistic
3. Be dynamic
4. Build on strengths
5. Promote micro-macro links
6. Encourage broad partnerships
7. Aim for sustainability



THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

APRIL 2016 – SEPTEMBER 2017

LIVELIHOODS TRAINING PROJECT: LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify the context of poverty in Wales and how it relates to finding and staying in work
- Recognise the factors that create poverty and social exclusion and the impact on people's lives
- Examine personal and organisational values, attitudes and behaviours which impact on service delivery
- Examine stigma and myths attached to poverty
- Consider the benefits of a holistic approach to supporting clients and the use of tools such as SLA and their practical use
- Exploration and interaction

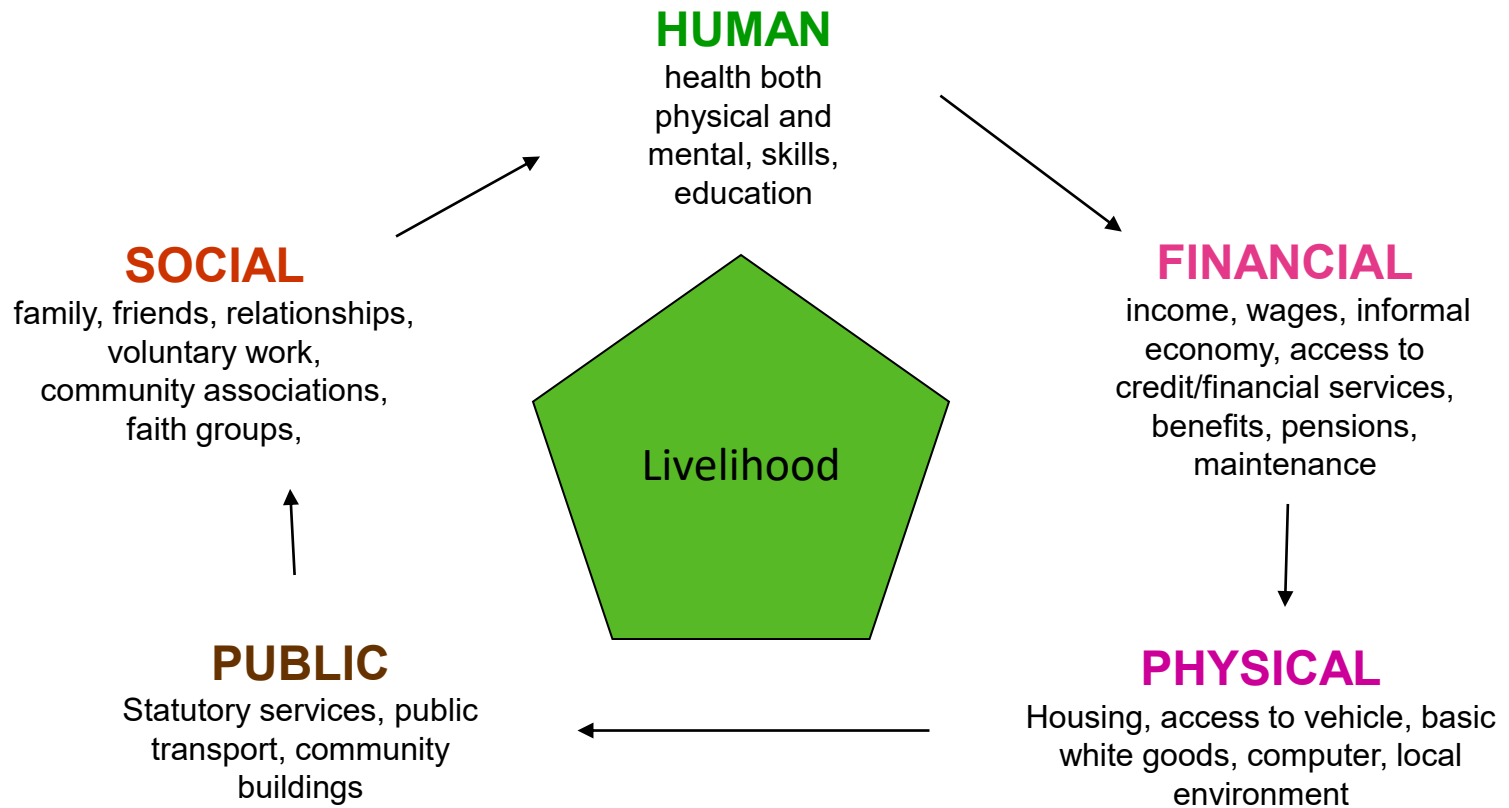


LIVELIHOODS TRAINING PROJECT: BENEFITS FOR DWP

- Increases awareness of vulnerable/disadvantaged groups
- Helps to develop robust relationships with external partners/providers who support vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
- Supports Jobcentre Operating Model
- Supports Quality Agenda-Claimant Commitments
- Supports Work & Health agenda
- Supports Universal Credit Full Service (UCFS)



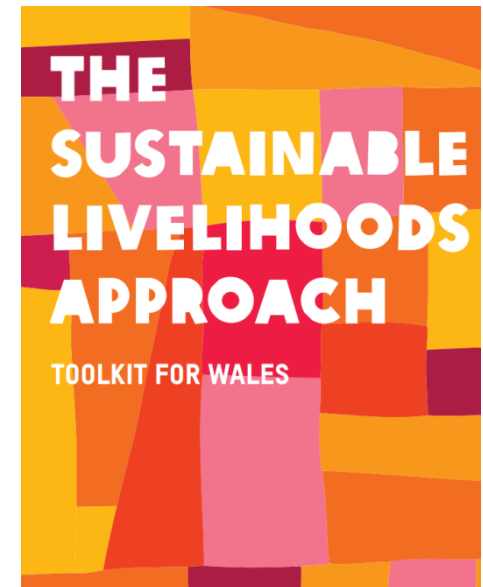
LOOKING INSIDE PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS



PEOPLE HAVE STRATEGIES TO GET BY – THEY MAKE RATIONAL CHOICES AND WEIGH THE RISKS

WHAT IS THE SLA TOOLKIT?

- This Toolkit, and the approach it utilises, provides a systematic, proven approach to analysing and understanding poverty from a community and individual citizen centred perspective.
- It helps people understand and address their own poverty from a holistic, whole life perspective, rather than simply addressing in isolation the surface problem – i.e. jobless, appears to suffer from depression, or has engaged in offending behaviour.
- 12 x Tools



LIVELIHOODS TRAINING PROJECT: TRAINING CONTENT

MODULE 1 (1 day)

Participants: Open to all JCP staff, managers, Benefits Offices

Content

- Understanding poverty in Wales
- Case studies and Livelihoods Workers' experience
- Co-training with BLSCW project partners
- Introducing & trialling use of the SLA Tools in the DWP context

MODULE 2 (1 day & follow up)

Participants: DWP Leads (self appointed, from all parts of service)

- Face-to-face sessions
- Monthly remote learning telekit sessions



WHAT WE ACHIEVED

EMBEDDING POVERTY AWARENESS:

608 individuals

SLA LEADS TRAINING:

158 attendees

(10 x full day + 10 x remote learning sessions)



THANK YOU

CONTACT

Victoria Goodban

vgoodban@oxfam.org.uk

0300 200 1269



OXFAM

Huw Thomas

Partnership Manager for Wales DWP

- DWP in Wales: Context
- Project Background/ Partnership approach
- Pilot events and outcomes
- Project roll out 2016-2017
- Final Outcomes and benefits for DWP
- Next steps.

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