



**Civic University**  
Network



**Institute for  
Community Studies**

Case Study:

# **CAPTURE: University of Wolverhampton**

The University of Wolverhampton's Institute for Community Research & Development is leading on community research project that aims to build the research capacity of their local community as a means of addressing long-standing social issues. **Community Action-research Partnership, Training, University Research and Engagement (CAPTURE)** will co-create and showcase a strong, diverse and lasting community peer research network in one of the most deprived, diverse and dynamic areas of Wolverhampton, Whitmore Reans.

The project aims to plug the following gaps in the community's and university's research capacity:

- a **lack of research capacity** in Whitmore Reans to gather data to inform social improvements;
- a **lack of access** to high quality **research training** to build capacity in the community;
- a **lack of experience** in how to create sustainable capacity to carry out rigorous research, **in collaborations between the University and civil society**

CAPTURE will train 12 community members through a co-designed and co-delivered programme of community-based peer-researcher training, equipping them with the skills to collect and analyse data about their area in order to develop better local-level data and understanding to help organisations plan and deliver development work, and to support funding bids for work to improve the lives of the area. **Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council** will ensure that the approach is mainstreamed and embedded in the co-production activity of public agencies. The research will focus on building a better qualitative understanding of income and health deprivation, violent crime amongst young people, and poor housing and environmental standards.

# Summary

<b>Role of Community</b>	Residents as researchers, trained and equipped to carry out research on issues identified by local organisations.
<b>Depth of Collaboration</b>	High level of collaboration between university, local CVS and residents. Funding from the university can ensure community have greater level of control over the process as more of a 'neutral' funder, i.e. compared to Thames Futures.
<b>Lens</b>	Focus on social issues with a broad place-based lens.
<b>Inclusivity</b>	Residents trained to conduct research in a specific place means those not usually involved in consultation processes are more likely to be included.
<b>Data Generated</b>	Data relevant to and useful for local CVS organisations' social action and fund-raising. Focus on qualitative data to enhance understanding of long-standing local issues.
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small, place-based focus allows for concentration of efforts and impact from the university.</li><li>• High importance on building capacity of local organisations and residents- university plays a capacity-building role.</li><li>• Research grant-funded = agenda of community more likely to be in driving seat of the process</li><li>• Focus on several issues, identified by the community, gives the process focus</li><li>• Aligned to funding needs of local CVS organisations = likely to maintain buy-in of local stakeholders and create long-term institutional relationships between university &amp; community to enable ongoing collaboration.</li></ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustaining peer research capacity after the grant-funding</li><li>• Requires intense resourcing</li><li>• Focussed on a small area- value for money? Harder sell to University decision-makers?</li><li>• Aligned to interests of CVS organisations- are these the usual suspects in communities?</li></ul>