

## 1 Introduction

The Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership is a partnership between the Community Development and Health Network (CDHN) and the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), with strategic direction provided by a multi-agency Steering Group and funding provided by the HSCB. The BCPP Programme has been operational for 14 years and is managed by CDHN. Currently, approximately £360K per year is allocated to successful BCPP projects from across Northern Ireland.

CDHN is a member led regional voluntary organisation whose purpose is to make a to end health inequalities, using a community development approach.

## 2 How BCPP operates

BCPP is a grant investment programme that supports the development of partnerships between community pharmacist and their local community. As part of this we support a shift in focus from a medical model of health to a social model of health. This is in recognition that people require a secure and safe environment before they can begin to make changes in their lives. We can only move to tackle lifestyle issues once we have identified the external forces that affect our behaviours and ensure people have the support and the confidence to make changes.

Over the last 14 years, a wide range of BCPP initiatives have emerged addressing a great diversity of issues. BCPP has worked with women's groups, early years programmes, people with addictions, older people's groups and mental health programmes, among many others.

The Programme operates on a 3 tier system: Level 1 - £2000 max per project; Level 2 - £10,000 max per project; Level 3 - £10,000 max per year for 3 years.

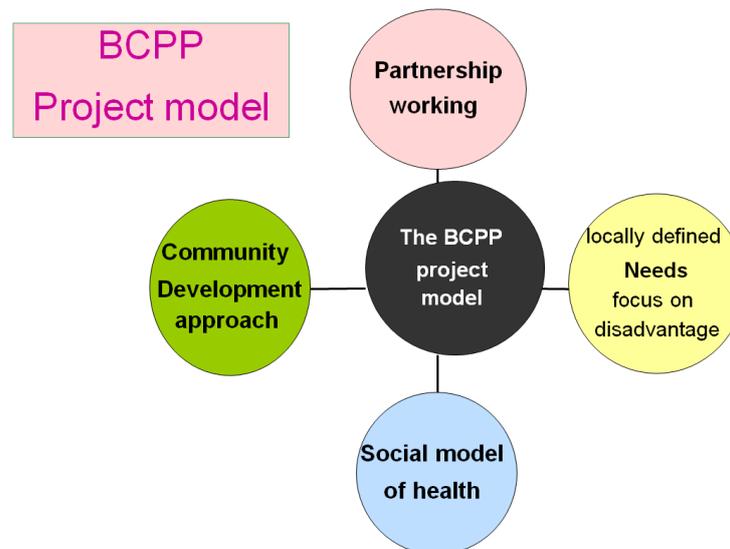
Generally within the BCPP Programme, projects are supported to focus on working with core groups of 12-15 people i.e. people that engage in the project over several sessions. This is to enable BCPP to measure and evidence the impact being made on participants over a period of time. This is also in recognition of the importance of community development being a core aspect of projects, which in itself requires a long term commitment to change. Some projects may also offer some sessions/events to a wider community group. One to one support from pharmacists and other partner

organisations is also key to BCPP projects, allowing people to follow up on concerns, ask for advice and be signposted and referred to other services.

The additional support offered by CDHN through the BCPP Programme has had a very positive impact. The focus has and continues to remain on supporting BCPP partners, locally and regionally, understand and use a community development approach as a core process that will bring about positive health outcomes.

CDHN has provided training, education, facilitation and networking to enable local partnerships to form, develop and address locally defined needs. This support is offered from before applicants apply, to the end of their project, on a group and individually tailored basis.

**In summary** a BCPP project focuses on the following key components with an emphasis on co-design, co-planning, co-funded, co-delivery and co-evaluation:



- **centrally co-ordinated with local ownership**
- **driven from the bottom up and responsive to local needs**
- **support intensive, guaranteeing local community involvement**
- **has senior strategic involvement with clear links to policy and alignment to pharmacy**