The CommUNity initiative exists to promote joint working between the university and community organisations. A charity in the city of Leeds working with the homeless, vulnerable and those suffering from addiction.

Background:
- Communities have a vital role to play in physical & mental health & wellbeing & promoting healthy behaviours
- Universities have a wealth of resources and are a significant player in building healthier communities
- In the current climate of austerity where funding is scarce, universities can support charities to deliver services the local authority can no longer offer
- Our collaborations place emphasis on a community centred approach for health and wellbeing, as social connections & influence on local decisions are major factors in good health

Activity | Benefit to University | Benefit to Community
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Placements (e.g. OT, Physio) | Experience for students | Access to skills, knowledge, latest practice
| Employability | Direct impact on service user health
Knowledge Exchange (e.g. Workshops) | Access to community knowledge | Specialist training for staff
| Increases student engagement | Information for service users e.g. law clinic
Dissertations/Projects | Real life engaging topic for students | Analysis can help develop service
| Valuable learning experience | Evidence for funding bids e.g. MBA project
Research/bids/evaluations | Access to research areas/ participants | Demonstrate value of their service
| Recommendations for improvements
Volunteering | Acquiring additional skills | Increased capacity to deliver service

Model Learning
- Building positive relationships underpins all our work
- Mutual benefit is essential for sustainability
- Academic and community knowledge have to be valued equally
- Partnerships develop organically to meet the needs of the community organisations and university staff/students
- Sharing good practice with other universities and community groups is important for developing the model
- Community campus partnerships need to be embedded in the culture of the university

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