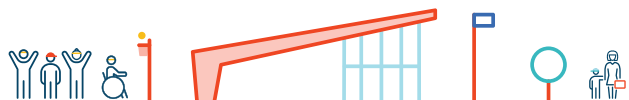


Advice for schools as community hubs (SaCH)

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What to explore

Focusing on community **needs or deficits** – such as low literacy, poor health, social isolation, or inadequate facilities – can be overwhelming and demoralising, making it hard to address these issues, or even to know where to begin.

Instead, explore community **strengths** as foundations for improvement. Ask local residents what services, activities, and facilities they value, what's working well, and what they would like to **improve or add**.

In addition, find out which members of the community might be able to assist with development or delivery of your SaCH and **invite them to collaborate**.

Think beyond your school

What other infrastructure and organisations exist in your local area? How could you collaborate to enhance education, health,

and social connection? (Refer to the '[Urban planning and design](#)' and '[Partnerships and collaborations](#)' advice sheets.)

How to gather information and opinions

You could:

- make an inventory or map of existing services or facilities
- measure community use of existing services or facilities
- administer surveys by post / door knocking / street stall / online
- conduct focus groups with invited community representatives
- facilitate public meetings and workshops.

Community priorities and opportunities can shift quickly, so maintain informal contact with community members beyond formal consultations to stay informed.



