

National Policies

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act](#)

The Community Empowerment Act reflects government priorities in promoting social justice and combating inequality by giving communities an opportunity to influence how land and buildings are managed and used, to offer consultation on programmes and priorities, to be involved in local outcomes improvement processes, and in reporting on progress of various kinds. The sections included in the act are summarised below.

Community planning	This part of the Act sets a requirement that Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) exist in every local authority and that they plan and deliver local outcomes and engage and involve communities at all stages. In this respect, communities should be provided with the opportunity to participate in developing plans and proposals of public services and play a part in providing services or projects.	The ABIF can assist CPPs in the involvement of communities at all stages of planning and provision of public services by applying the 5 steps approach.
Participation requests	<p>This section of the Act gives communities the power to set the agenda and the way needs, issues and opportunities are understood. It also sets out a process whereby a community body can request that a service is improved, or to help improve a service, if it believes this is needed.</p> <p>The outcomes of a service should be clearly linked to one of the following: economic development, regeneration, public health, social wellbeing or environmental wellbeing; reduction of inequalities of outcome; increase in participation in the outcome improvement process by people experiencing disadvantage; encourage equal opportunities.</p>	The ABIF can assist community bodies to engage with communities in identifying what improvements and outcomes they want to see in a service, and how these improvements can link to the anticipated outcomes set by authorities.

[The Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act provides the legislative framework for the integration of health and social care services in Scotland. The integration planning principles outlined in the act entail that the main purpose of services, which are provided as part of the integration process is to improve the wellbeing of service-users.

The act recommends that services should be provided in a way which is	The ABIF can help practitioners
integrated from the point of view of service-users.	identify what service-users want to change/achieve by using a service.
Considers the particular needs of service-users in different parts of the area in which the service is being provided.	The ABIF identifies not only needs, but assets in the different parts of the area.
Considers the particular characteristics and circumstances of different service-users.	The ABIF identifies the defining characteristics of the service-users and particular context in which the service will take place.
Respects the rights of service-users.	The ABIF treats service-users as equal partners in the development of the service rather than just 'users'.
Considers the participation of service-users in the community in which service-users live.	The ABIF identifies the most appropriate engagement method for the community in which service-users live.
Aims to improve the quality of the service.	The ABIF identifies what it is that community members want to improve. What are the services they want to receive?
Planned and led locally in a way which is engaged with the community (including those who look after service-users and are involved in the provision of health or social care).	The ABIF co-produces services together with the community by creating a dialogue and relationship based on trust.
Aims to best anticipate needs and prevent them arising.	The ABIF determines how community members think they can prevent needs from arising by considering their end goal.
Aims to make the best use of the available facilities, people and other resources.	The ABIF identifies the assets in a community and existing resources that can be used.
Significant decisions outside strategic planning – For service users to be involved in and consulted on decisions.	The ABIF is designed to co-produce activities and services together with the people who are the users of a service. The framework can help practitioners identify the assets of service users and potential ways of working with them to achieve desired outcomes.