



# The Community Scorecard Action Research Project

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# Aims for the session

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- To describe the policy background to the community scorecard action research project;
- To outline the research approaches;
- To explore the research conclusions;
- To consider the implications for future research and development.

- UK Commission: Towards Ambition 2020: skills, jobs, growth (Oct 2009)
- Public Information
- Skills for Sustainable Growth:  
*‘by giving learners and employers a wide range of information about the curriculum, quality and value of learning opportunities.... they will be better informed to make choices about where and what to learn’*

# Emerging policy agenda

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- Fairness
- Shared responsibility
- Greater freedoms and flexibilities
- Citizen driven services
- Localities and community-based budgets

# Underpinning principles

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- A partnership with the UK Commission, overseen by the National Improvement Partnership Board
- Involve providers from the beginning in ‘shaping the community scorecard’
- Small-scale action research approach with ‘willing’ providers
- A range of provider types, geographies, local administrative arrangements, and socio-economic characteristics
- Provision of research support, mentoring and co-ordination

# Emerging implications

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- Audiences
- Presentation of information
- Dynamic engagement with communities
- Strategic direction and ownership

# Issues for discussion

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- How might a range of public information be used by providers to demonstrate and strengthen their responsiveness to their communities?
- What opportunities and challenges do the new freedoms and flexibilities present for the nature of research in our sector?
- The increasing emphasis on public information raises questions about how well equipped we are to select, analyse, interpret and present data in cost-effective ways. What are the implications for the FE sector?