Activity: Building Block Dialogue Starter

Purpose

To initiate dialogue about the building blocks

Directions

- Print out the Building Block Dialogue Cards template (below) - you may reword, adapt or add your own questions to suit your needs

- Cut out each discussion card and attach to a cue card

- Within your steering committee or small group, select some cards (perhaps 5) to discuss. You may want to start with cards from one building block.

- Use the cards to prompt dialogue. When discussing the reflective questions on the card, you may want to consider:
  - Examples of what is already being done in your community related to that question
  - Examples can that could be implemented by communities/organizations
  - Possible strategies
  - Anticipated challenges that may be encountered
  - Potential solutions to overcome challenges

- There is no right or wrong answers. Just dialogue and sharing with others!

Other ideas:

- Assign a person in the group to take notes as you may want to record the discussion to refer back to at a later time
- Use flip chart paper to capture the key ideas and post this for everyone to see
- You can post ideas using the three building blocks as the main titles, or use flip chart paper for strategies, challenges, and solutions

- Get the group moving around the room
- Use the activity SWOT analysis template to identify your community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for each of the three building blocks.

AN INFORMED SOCIETY

Keep Learning About Older Adults

☐ How do you keep current on the changing needs and preferences of older adults?

☐ How do you ensure you are meeting the needs or preferences of older adults and addressing gaps in services?

AN INFORMED SOCIETY

Communicate with the greater community

☐ What do you do to ensure that the public has relevant information about programs, events and services offered for older adults?

☐ How do you ensure that the information portrays positive attitudes and images of older adults?

AN INFORMED SOCIETY

Communicate with older adults who are existing or potential participants, customers, or clients

☐ How do you share information with older adults about programs, supports, strategies and initiatives?

☐ How do you communicate that your organization can make accommodations (e.g. large print in brochures) for older adults?

☐ How do you share information with older adults who are socially isolated?

AN INFORMED SOCIETY

Share your knowledge about older adults with the people you work with

☐ How do you ensure that your colleagues and co-workers are well-informed about the unique needs of older adults?

☐ What training opportunities are you providing to ensure staff/volunteers are qualified and/or certified to effectively meet the needs of older adults?

AN ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Ensure Access to Programs, Services, and Supports to Meet the Needs and Preferences of Older Adults

- ☐ What programs, services and supports for older adults currently exist? Where are the gaps?
- ☐ How do you accommodate the individual needs of a client in programs, services or events?
- ☐ How do policies and practices respect the rights and choices of older adults?
- ☐ What methods/programs/services are in place to help support or subsidise older adults with limited incomes?

AN ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Create a Safe and Secure Social Environment

- ☐ How do you make the environment welcoming and comfortable?
- ☐ How do your programs, supports, events and services promote participation that is meaningful to older adults?
- ☐ What programs or services do you provide that offer opportunities for older adults to interact with others?
- ☐ How does the environment promote and support social participation
- ☐ What programs, resources and policies are in place to help prevent and respond to abuse, crime or scams?

AN ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Ensure people are able to access and use buildings/spaces safely

- ☐ How do you ensure easy flow/movement within buildings?
- ☐ How can people get assistance if needed?
- ☐ How does the design of the space cater to the needs of older adults?

AN ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Meet or exceed accessibility standards and practices

- ☐ What actions ensure that your organization/community is physically accessible to older adults?
- ☐ How do you incorporate the resources available to assist your organization/community in meeting legislated accessibility standards?

AN ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Ensure access to buildings/spaces is accessible and safe

☐ How do older adults travel to and from programs/services?

☐ How safe and accessible are parking areas and drop-off zones?

☐ How do you ensure that people can move safely and easily outside of buildings/spaces?

☐ What emergency and evacuation procedures are in place to ensure the safety and security of persons in case of emergency?

☐ How do you ensure indoor and outside signage assists people to find their way?

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, AND SYSTEM CONNECTEDNESS

Build Meaningful Partnerships Between Older Adults and Service Providers

☐ What opportunities are available for older adults to help in the planning and implementation of programs and services?

☐ How do you recruit older adults as partners?

☐ How do you ensure that the perspectives of older adults are included in decision-making?

☐ How do you support active participation of older adults within the partnership?

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, AND SYSTEM CONNECTEDNESS

Create Strong Partnerships Within and Beyond Your Community

☐ How do you connect and share resources with others to address unmet needs of older adults?

☐ How do you connect with policy and decision makers to address unmet needs of older adults?

☐ How do you connect and share resources with other geographic communities or regions?