

Knowledge about the health and

Social needs of their communities and about

How those needs can be met. Their everyday

Experience of home visiting and their long-term

Knowledge of individuals, families and net-

Works built up over time are valuable resources.

As a result they are well placed to identify com-

Munity leaders and build alliances with local

Groups. Community health practitioners also

Have a role to play in the recruitment and sup-

Port of lay health workers from the local com-

Munity who are key players in community

Health development programmes.

A fundamental shift is required, however, to

Enable practitioners to change their focus of

Practice in order to address not only the individual and the family but also the wider community. Community development necessitates a change in 'mind set' from a task- to a community-orientated form of practice recognising the individual as part of a collective group with specific needs. This may also pose an additional threat or challenge to practitioners who may find it difficult to relinquish their supposed superior knowledge and power (Jones & Wiggle 1987). Practitioners wishing to be more proactive in their communities require skills, training and support to do so. In order for this to occur community development must become an integral

Part of the fundamental role of the community

Box 4.3 LEAP evaluation framework

The key outcomes are:

- Healthy people who have:
 - Awareness and knowledge
 - Confidence, choice and control
 - Independence and self-reliance
 - Connections to community

- Strong communities characterised by:
 - Community skills
 - Equalities
 - Community organisation
 - Community involvement