

Learning Link Scotland –  
Committed to Working Together

## Research as an Integral Part of CLD Practice



### Workshop Facilitator:

Nick Wilding (consultant and teaching fellow at the Centre for Human Ecology, Strathclyde University)

Key Question: *How can research benefit your work and your community and make your organisation more sustainable?*

### 'Take-home' soundbites

- Knowledge isn't just in numbers: it's also in feelings, hunches, and gossip
- Suspend assumptions about experts: put them 'on tap, not on top'... and go for it
- Start by noticing and valuing the skills we already have - then amplify them
- Story-telling is the most ancient, natural form of human communication and learning. With a little added structure, it can also be research...
- Have courage to think ahead: build reflection time into project and organisational design and learn how to hold reflective creative, open space with authority not control
- Good funders will love your action research ideas: they want sustainable organisations, too

### Resources/Follow-up

Web: <http://www.nickwilding.com/CLD/actionresearch.htm>

This web page is specifically for people applying action research approaches to Community Learning and Development. It has links, CPD opportunities, essays, tools, and more.

