

Oldham Partnership Conference 12th December 2006
Community Cohesion Strategy – Workshop

1) *Do the 6 outcomes reflect our understanding of Community Cohesion?*

Broadly, they do reflect our understanding – however:

- It is more about delivery
- Needs to be translated to a local level – through service frontline and in communities.
- Culture is a very broad term.

2) *Does the Local Area Agreement support these 6 outcomes?*

- Improving standards of parks allows people to meet in a ‘neutral’ space.
- Creating safe communities - helps people to feel a sense of belonging.
- Not just focussing on race – young/ old etc.
- Need to work with grass roots communities to communicate the messages – community engagement is key.
- Focussing on the delivery of the message
- Narrowing the gap is key

- Yes; However, it is difficult to monitor hard to reach groups – need ability to monitor this and then report accurately.

3) *How can the Local Area Agreement do more, with regard to community cohesion?*

- Need better co-ordination of community development/ engagement.
- Need to empower communities to get involved and become part of the solution.
- Utilise current resources so that partners engage directly with communities, but deliver a common message.
- Encourage festivals and events that pull people together e.g. free events as part of Festival of Diversity → co-ordination
- Needs to be more focus on culture
- Fun events encourage people to make friends

- Perceptions: employers to move away from stereotyping young people/ people without “the right” qualifications.
- Culture: raise confidence for young people to apply for better jobs – ambition.
- Involve Communities in assessing impact.
- Multi-culturalism / cohesion vs. specific genders/ age/ race/ religion



Is this differentiating by definition?

- Role of Community Leaders – other examples nationally?
- PCT 'Get on Board' (E2 in Community Cohesion document) – women leaders?
- Integration pre-16
- Ethnic & gender mix in certain areas of work



Culture

- Representation at meetings from different groups.

LAA & Community Cohesion

- Community Engagement e.g. OP Forum, Community Capacity
- Targeting BME Community – offering choice
- Access to Services
 - Housing (Age as well as race)
 - Exercise
- Cohesion is an Economic Issue
 - Innovations
 - Involve private sector

