

OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP – COMMISSIONED ACTIVITY

LAA BLOCK:
SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Project Name:	Building Good Relations
Project Reference:	
Organisation Responsible:	Diversity and Cohesion Unit, Oldham Borough Council
Project Manager:	Bruce Penhale Assistant Director Communities Diversity and Cohesion Unit Oldham MBC Tel 0161 770 4196 e-mail: bruce.penhale@oldham.gov.uk
Project Start Date:	April 1 st 2007
Project End Date:	March 31 st 2008

Project Summary:

The Community Engagement Commissioning Group has commissioned the continuation of Building Good Relations activity from April 1st 2007 until March 31st 2008. This commissioned activity is designed to build on the achievements and experience of previous work, undertaken as an NRF funded project, and to contribute towards the achievement of specific Local Area Agreement, (LAA), targets. In pursuit of these ends, Building Good Relations, in undertaking the commissioned activity, will be expected to:

- Extend the work undertaken on Building Good Relations in Oldham, facilitated by Mediation Northern Ireland over the past four years, by focusing upon developing community and organisational capacity for conflict prevention and resolution in Oldham;
- Develop and deliver a Borough-wide community mediation service;
- Provide professional supervision and mentoring, through a Field Manager, to 12 trainee mediation practitioners undertaking casework to build good relations in Oldham;
- Deliver 12 training sessions (9 x 1 day “Conflict Awareness” and 3 x 2 day “Introduction to Mediation”) to a total of 180 people from service providers and communities;
- Develop a model for the sustainable delivery of Community Mediation Services in Oldham in the longer term, including options around income generation.

This is an extension of work undertaken on Building Good Relations in Oldham, facilitated by Mediation Northern Ireland over the past four years and previously operated as an NRF funded project. In 2007/08 the work will focus upon developing community and organisational capacity for conflict prevention and resolution in Oldham. This will build upon the current phase in which a group of

trainee mediation practitioners are developing experience in the field of community mediation, and three people in Oldham have been trained as trainers in basic conflict resolution/mediation skills. During 2007/08, 'Building Good Relations' will:

- Through a Field Manager, provide professional supervision and mentoring to 12 trainee mediation practitioners in delivering casework to build good relations in Oldham
- Deliver 12 training sessions (9 x 1 day "Conflict Awareness" and 3 x 2 day "Introduction to Mediation") to a total of 180 people from service providers and communities
- Develop a model for the sustainable delivery of Community Mediation Services in Oldham in the longer term, including options around income generation
- Work with partners and practitioners to identify and assess potential cases for mediation in the community and undertake a minimum of 4 new cases requiring mediation expertise.

LAA Indicator:	Project work towards target:
<p>B – To have cleaner, greener and safer public spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents reporting an increase in satisfaction with their neighbourhoods and narrowing of the gap between disadvantage areas and the rest • Percentage of Adults who say that people from different, (ethnic and social), backgrounds get on well in their area <p>Residents and employees of service providers will be trained to be better able to prevent and resolve conflict. Their use of these skills will help to build good community relations and reduce local tensions, which will help to improve residents' perceptions of their neighbourhoods and of relationships between people from different backgrounds. It will help contribute to safer neighbourhoods. Since community relations problems are disproportionately concentrated in some of the most disadvantage parts of the Borough, this will also contribute to narrowing the gap</p>
<p>D – To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area <p>The work is likely to have a particular impact because local people will be involved in developing solutions to problems / potential problems in their communities. This will help build feelings of community cohesion</p>

Other Targets that will be met by this Commissioned Activity	
Hate Crime	The work may assist in both increasing people's confidence in reporting hate crimes and the ability to prevent/resolve these
Residential Integration	Tackling community relations problems may help to make people from different ethnic groups more willing to live in areas, which they would not previously have been willing to consider