

**COMMUNITY COHESION THEMATIC GROUP  
SPECIAL MEETING  
2.00pm, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009, West Lancashire Investment Centre**

**Present:**

Cllr Iain Ashcroft	Chair	Greg Mitten	West Lancs CVS
Cllr J Baldock	WLBC	Jeanette Hickey	Lancashire Police
John Miller	NHS Central Lancashire	Zainab Ali	NHS Central Lancashire
Kim Webber	WLBC	Dawn Clarke	NHS Central Lancashire
Rachel Walker	Lancashire Fire & Rescue	Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
Brian Lussey	WLBC	Clare Pollard	Age Concern

**In attendance:** Liz Donnelly (LSP Secretariat)

**1 Apologies**

Tracey Jardine	LCC	Pam Smith	LCC
Joanne Latham	LCC	John Buck	LFRS
Chris Hartley	Skelmersdale College	Robert Johnstone	Access Matters

**2. Individual Introductions**

Those at the meeting briefly introduced themselves.  
Councillor Ashcroft welcomed Clare Pollard from Age Concern and Mandy Naylor from Help Direct, both attending for the first time.

**3. Action Plan- Continuation of Workshop led by Kim Webber (WLDC)**

The meeting then continued to consider the formulation of an action plan for the Community Cohesion Thematic Group.

Kim Webber outlined a summary of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats exercise carried out at the previous meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and the meeting **Agreed** this Summary which is to be found in the Thematic Group's "Strategy and Action Plan" (attached separately).

Further exercises were then carried out which addressed a Vision for the Borough and outcomes being aimed for. The results of these exercises are also in the Thematic Group's "Strategy and Action Plan".

Following this, it was **Agreed** that Liz Donnelly prepare and circulate a summary of the workshop exercises to the Thematic Group requesting that members provide her with two suggestions to cover each of the following questions :-

- 1) What are the key areas that the Community Cohesion Thematic Group should focus its attention on? (ie the "drivers of change")
- 2) What are the most important practical projects the Thematic Group could do? (ie things within our control, our available resources and influence)

Liz would then incorporate these suggestions into a draft Action Plan- to be discussed at the next meeting.

Jeanette Hickey also mentioned work that was being carried out by David Halpin of LCC and Inspector Sue Swift ( Lancashire Constabulary) to address older people's issues and suggested that they be invited to the next meeting of the Thematic Group to describe this work and this was **Agreed**.

#### **4. Requests for Membership of the Community Cohesion Thematic Group**

##### **i) Ormskirk Community Partnership**

Liz Donnelly referred the meeting to her report setting out a request for membership from the newly formed Ormskirk Community Partnership (OCP). The OCP was set up following the Market Towns Initiative for Ormskirk, and intends to act as a voice for the community as well as being a direct action group. The OCP is wanting to join the Community Cohesion Thematic Group as well as other thematic groups (employment, transport and environment ) and the LSP itself.

Greg Mitten informed the meeting that the CVS has been working to help develop the OCP (in terms of its constitution and focus group) and that the OCP has been successful in getting public health funding for projects around community cohesion. However, Greg also mentioned the new People & Communities Thematic Group (with its remit around volunteering and the Third Sector and of which he is the Chair) which would be relevant for the OCP to join.

Kim Webber suggested both that the People & Communities Thematic Group would probably be the appropriate locus for the OCP and also that it would also be sensible to wait until the Community Cohesion Thematic Group had developed its action plan to see if there was a particular task role for the OCP . This was **Agreed** .

##### **ii) Help Direct**

Membership of the Community Cohesion Thematic Group was also sought from Help Direct which is a new locally-based community support service in each district across the Lancashire, its aim being to promote independence and improve well-being.

Mandy Naylor from Help Direct informed the meeting that one of the organisation's key objectives is improving community cohesion and looking at the gaps in services.

Councillor Ashcroft believed that Help Direct is a relevant organisation for membership of the Community Cohesion Thematic Group and it was **Agreed** to accept its request for membership.

##### **iii) Edge Hill University**

Brian Lussey informed the Thematic Group of a meeting he had with Edge Hill University on 5<sup>th</sup> June to discuss issues around community cohesion and the University. He indicated that the University was very keen to join the Thematic Group.

Mandy Naylor said that the University is very willing to work and engage with the community and Councillor Ashcroft indicated that it was very important that the University be represented on the Group.

Liz Donnelly clarified that Edge Hill University was already included as a possible member on the Thematic Group's Terms of Reference and that she had already tried to contact the University for an appropriate representative.

It was **Agreed** that Brian provide Liz with details of the Edge Hill proposed representative and that Liz invite them to the next meeting of the Thematic Group.

## 5. Any Other Business

Greg Mitten sought to clarify the relationship between the People & Communities and Community Cohesion Thematic Groups.

He saw the People & Communities Group as an action task group working across the Third Sector and he emphasised that he didn't want this Group replicating the work of other Thematic Groups. Therefore, he suggested that People & Communities Thematic Group meetings fall in with those of the Community Cohesion Thematic Group and that he would report the outcome of the former to the latter. This was **Agreed**.

## 6. Date of Next Meeting and Proposed Agenda Items

The following issues were noted to be for discussion as the next Thematic Group meeting :

- David Halpin (LCC) and Insp Sue Swift (Lancashire Constabulary) – presentation on work around older people's issues
- Action Plan

The next Group meeting was **Agreed** as being on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 2.00pm in the Willow Suite, West Lancashire Investment Centre, Skelmersdale