

**COMMUNITY COHESION THEMATIC GROUP MEETING
2.00pm, 15th January 2010, West Lancashire Investment Centre**

Present:

Cllr Iain Ashcroft	Chair	Tracey Jardine	LCC
Cllr John Baldock	WLBC	Clare Pollard	Age Concern
Cllr R Pendleton	WLBC	Greg Mitten	West Lancs CVS
Anthony Hewitt	Lancashire Fire & Rescue	Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
Cliff Owens	WLBC		

In attendance: Saulo Cwerner (Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership); Liz Donnelly (LSP Secretariat)

1. Apologies

Kim Webber	WLBC	John Miller	NHS Central Lancashire
Robert Johnstone	Access Matters	David Tilleray	WLBC
Pam Smith	LCC		

2. Individual Introductions

Those at the meeting briefly introduced themselves.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 25th September 2009 were **Agreed** as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Researching and Communicating Migration in Lancashire

Saulo Cwerner from the Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership had been invited to the meeting to describe the Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership project "Researching and Communicating Migration in Lancashire". This project is being funded by the Migration Impact Fund and is a one year project to Nov 2010.

The objective of this project is to promote community cohesion by challenging myths and misconceptions about migration and migrant communities that are prevalent in many areas of Lancashire. However, Saulo pointed out that the project will encompass any schemes that promote communication and interaction between communities. The project will involve a period of research and consultation with LCCP members and other district and county-wide agencies and partnerships and strategic

groups, during which a number of (mostly) local interventions will be designed. The final months of the project will see the delivery of such interventions, together with the monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness.

Saulo indicated that participation of local partners (at district level) is fundamental for the success of the project from the research stage (eg local surveys of migrant workers, qualitative work amongst the farming communities, work in urban areas) to the design of local interventions (eg campaigns, events and other initiatives) . To this end, he will be wanting to get in contact with individual partners on the Thematic Group.

Saulo pointed out that his research will be useful for the Thematic Group, providing a strong evidence base about the needs of the area.

Cllr Ashcroft thanked Saulo for his very informative presentation and a question and answer session then followed.

Cllr Pendleton asked about involving Edge Hill University in the research and Saulo indicated he was open to all ideas regarding this stage of the project. His role is to coordinate resources (and part of the Migration Impact Fund monies could be used to fund any research).

Cllr Pendleton also asked if the project was to focus on any particular group of migrant workers . Saulo said that workers from the A8 countries (those joining the EU in 2004) were to be the main focus but he didn't want to rule out other groups.

Cliff Owens enquired if there was to be any focus on any particular themes such as crime, or the impact on the local economy and that West Lancashire was unique, with its own issues. Saulo indicated that it could be that each district focus on a specific theme. Cllr Baldock suggested researching changes in the numbers of students entering through the SAWs scheme; Cllr Pendleton suggested looking at any integration issues between different groups of migrant workers (eg Polish and Portuguese) whilst Cllr Ashcroft mentioned any issues around exploitation and displacement of labour.

Greg Mitten welcomed the project but indicated that we need to look at the "positives" and get these cascaded into the community. He also mentioned that CVS currently has a graduate placement who could help with any research.

Tracey Jardine asked about the outcomes the project is aiming to achieve eg breaking down perceptions about different cultures? Saulo replied that the project aims to show the positive side of migration and not just in a factual way (eg myths v facts) but through other initiatives that promote positive relationships and allow meaningful interaction.

Cllr Baldock stressed the importance of getting local people involved and Clare Pollard referred to the Respect Festival in 2009. Cllr Baldock also asked if Saulo could attend one of the Thematic Group's later meetings this year as it would be useful to see any proposed initiatives for the Borough whilst Tracey asked if the proposed activities would be channelled through the Thematic Group or individual partners. Saulo indicated that the Thematic Group offered the best "steer".

Finally, was **Agreed** that Tracey Jardine be the link officer for the Thematic Group in terms of this project.

6. Draft Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan

Liz Donnelly referred the meeting to the latest version of the Community Cohesion Thematic Group's Strategy and Action Plan 2009/10 (1st January 2010). This latest version incorporates the agreed drivers of change, the suggested actions and reasons for them and the current action plan itself. In terms of specific actions there were some updates from individual members on the Thematic Group :-

a) Promote through the Community Cohesion Thematic Group the growth of community based and managed timebanks

Mandy Naylor indicated that Help Direct was working on a couple of initiatives around timebanks- one at Burscough Café and the other in the Northern Parishes. The latter is linked to providing HD services in the rural areas.

b) Provide assistance to the Community Food Growing Strategy

Greg Mitten reported that the Community Food Growing Steering Group had recently agreed an action plan and there are now 2 part-time employees working with the community and schools on this Strategy. Parish Councils have been helpful in identifying potential sites. He also requested that in terms of "resources required" this be indicated as "Second Homes funding obtained" on the CCTG action plan and this was **Agreed**.

c) Support the development of a LGBT youth group in West Lancashire

Greg informed the meeting that there was still a degree of confusion regarding this action but that it was beginning to resolve itself. The development of a LGBT youth group is to be discussed at the next meeting of the West Lancashire Childrens Partnership (4th February). Furthermore, the People & Communities Thematic Group will also be looking at this proposal ; some links have already been made with Edge Hill University who have various groups.

7. Advice Note on Community Cohesion

Liz Donnelly referred the meeting to both her covering report on the draft Advice Note which she had produced and the Note itself.

The Note provides national and local contexts around community cohesion as well as government guidance regarding appropriate approaches and initiatives. The main part of the Note is the audit of work done locally (plus future work) and how this fits in with government recommended approaches.

Liz mentioned that the intention is to pass on this Note to the LSP Executive and other thematic groups.

The Note was generally well received by members of the Thematic Group who indicated that it would be a useful tool. However, it was recognised that possibly not all partners' work had been included eg those of the Ormskirk Community Partnership, Burscough Partnership and PCT.

It was therefore **Agreed** that the draft Note be circulated to the Thematic Group and various partners requesting further examples of initiatives and that the revised Note be passed onto the LSP Executive and thematic groups as soon as possible.

8. Help Direct Small Sparks Fund

Mandy Naylor informed the meeting of the new Small Sparks Fund which can be used to kick start, inject life or enhance community based services or activity which can show a clear positive difference to adults within their local community. The overall aim

is to improve well-being and community cohesion .There is currently £25k of funding available each year for community groups to bid for. Mandy requested that the Thematic Group help with publicising the Fund and this was **Agreed**.

9. People & Communities Thematic Group- Feedback

Greg Mitten informed the meeting that the first meeting of the People and Communities Thematic Group had taken place. It was likely that the broad focus of this new Thematic Group would be the actions identified by the Community Cohesion Thematic Group. It is intended that the PCTG meet between the CCTG meetings.

10. Exchange of Information

a) Cliff Owens mentioned the Community Safety Partnership which intends this year to focus on young people's issues. The "Meeting the People" event was brought up with requests from the CCTG that the venue be changed and focussing on young people. Clare Pollard stressed the need to involve young people.

b) Tracey Jardine informed the meeting that the closing date of LCC's "Give It a Go" competition had been extended to 22nd January with judging of the entries to take place in late February.. She also mentioned that so far there had been 10 good entries from West Lancashire.

c) Mandy Naylor reported that Help Direct was due to publish a Well-Being Directory

d) Greg Mitten (WLCVS) reported on the distribution of funding from LCC, Commissioned Outcomes Funding and the Young Lancashire Consortium bid (a partnership of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations working with children and Young People across Lancashire.

e) Greg Mitten (WLCVS) also mentioned available funding for schools via the West Lancashire Children's Trust Board available to VCFS organisations and schools.

f) Cllr Ashcroft informed the Thematic Group that this was Liz Donnelly's last meeting and wished her all the best for the future

11. Date of Next Meeting

It was **Agreed** that the next meeting of the Community Cohesion Thematic Group be held on 14th May 2010 at 2pm at the Investment Centre