

**COMMUNITY COHESION THEMATIC GROUP MEETING
2.00pm, 14th May 2010, West Lancashire Investment Centre**

Present:

Cllr Iain Ashcroft	Chair	Tracey Jardine	LCC
Cllr Bob Pendleton	WLBC	Greg Mitten	WL CVS
John Buck	Lancashire Fire & Rescue	Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
David Tilleray	WLBC	Pam Smith	LCC
Gina Moran	Skelmersdale & Ormskirk College	John Miller	NHS Central Lancashire
Phyllis Roberts	LCC	Joanne Latham	LCC

In attendance: Saulo Cwerner (Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership);
Rachel Boyes, Salvation Army

1. Apologies

Cllr Baldock
Cllr Mee

2. Individual Introductions

Those at the meeting briefly introduced themselves.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 15th January 2010 were Agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Tracey Jardine gave an update on the 'Give it a Go' competition. The winning team for West Lancashire as agreed by the West Lancashire Give it a Go working group was a commercial Worm Farm project. They will be mentored by Selnet throughout the process and will be entered into the County level competition which will award the winning team £20,000. Support for all other applicants who applied at district level will be available, including mentoring.

5. LCC 'Cohesion and Integration' Strategies

Pam Smith gave a presentation on LCC 'Cohesion and Integration' Strategy and the Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership. LCC's 'Cohesion and Integration' Strategy was launched in March and has received Beacon Authority status. Some of the key priorities are:

- Develop LCC's commitment to supporting communities through the recession
- Build Social Capital across our communities
- Increase community resilience and tension monitoring
- Build sustainable rural cohesive communities

- Strengthen community leadership
- Develop communication/marketing and challenging misconceptions

The Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership is a senior level strategic group and a borough council representative/LSP representative in each district sits on this partnership. David Tilleray is the West Lancashire representative. There are 6 mini seminars planned on key themed areas, the first one being on 1st July and will be themed around Recession. The mini seminars will focus on good practice models; facts & figures; focus groups/workshops; link to key guidance. Copies of both strategies can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/communitycohesion

A questions and answer session followed.

IA Is the LCCP a strategic partnership?

PS It does take on a strategic approach, which compliments local district community cohesion partnerships.

TJ How does it link into resources?

PS There are no resources to support the LCCP. All funding has been applied for and received externally.

BP There is a police project at the moment, confidence in policing. Are you linked into this and can you influence at all as Tanhouse has been highlighted as no confidence?

PS The link for this group would be with Jeanette Hickey. A Superintendent from Lancashire Constabulary sits on the LCCP and the police provide feedback.

IA If there are any new initiatives brought to the LCCP can you keep us informed?

PS I will update TJ on any initiatives who can then feedback to the group

GM Are there any 3rd Sector representation?

PS Pam Smith from 3rd Sector Lancashire, Ed Saville and Forum of Faiths are representative on the LCCP

6. Researching and Communicating Migration in Lancashire

Saulo Cwerner from the Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership was invited to the meeting to give an update on 'Researching and Communicating Migration' in Lancashire. As part of the research being carried out by the Mythbusting project of the LCCP there are 6 surveys of migrant workers planned in 6 areas of Lancashire including 1 survey in South Lancashire (West Lancashire/Chorley/South Ribble). A questionnaire template has been devised but will need slight adjustment to tailor it to the needs of South Lancashire. Saulo is now looking to recruit bi-lingual interviewers and needs help from the group in identifying suitable organisations to do this. There is funding available to do this and the interviewers are expected to go out into the district to conduct face to face interviews with hopefully a sample of 400 in each area. The questionnaires will be as representative as possible to include national data, nationalities, gender, age, employment, length of stay, place of residence etc.

A questions and answer session followed.

IA What kind of timescales are we looking at?

SC We are ready to go once a local organisation has been identified we should be able to start the survey within a couple of weeks.

GM ASK which is a voluntary organization in West Lancashire may be a good contact to have and may be able to assist with the survey. They have recently worked with East European workers and Polish children experiencing problems with communication. ASK agreed to go to the local area and try to make links with them. Greg also suggested that the National Farmers Union may be another good contact as they have many links with the local agricultural workers. Greg agreed to pass on the contact details to Saulo.

MN also confirmed that ASK would be a good contact as they do have language skills.

DT How do you contact migrant workers who are accommodated in caravans and continually moving around the district?

SC Try to recruit interviewers who live/work in the local area to cover local parishes and will therefore have the local knowledge/intelligence. In Pennine Lancashire they managed to bridge the gap by advertising in different areas to inform them of the activity and interviewees are also given leaflets/flyers to distribute to the community.

MN – The Fire Service may be a good point of contact/ route in with its link with local employees

BP – raised concerns in urban areas. There is now a large intake of Czech as well as Polish workers. Some are now on the electoral register. Although the citizen panel is now ceasing the data collected may be useful for addresses.

MN – After the survey has been completed, what are the timescales for receiving results.

SC – It will take up to 6/7 weeks field work, collecting questionnaires fortnightly. Should be able to feedback small report 3 – 4 weeks after receiving all questionnaires. A report with the main findings will be available late October, early November.

JM – Will the interviewers be trained to deal with social attitudes/higher levels of homophobia within the community?

SC – The interviewees will receive training on sexual orientation. There may also be some focus groups specifically themed around such issues.

PR – What is the age limit as some of the students who are bi-lingual may be interested and who should they contact if they are?

SC – Saulo is the contact and ideally they should be aged 18 years or over.

JB – If you can provide us with some flyers we will distribute them when carrying out fire home checks.

Action: agreed to forward to Saulo any contacts which may be useful regarding survey interviewers.

7. Action Plan

Verbal feedback from action leads and general discussion around the draft action plan with the following comments made:

1. Produce an Advice Note on Community Cohesion.
 - It was agreed to review the Advice Note annually
2. Provide Assistance to the Community Food Growing Strategy

- Health & Wellbeing TG through 2nd homes funding is producing a newsletter which will be distributed across the borough
3. Promote through the CCTG the growth of community based and managed timebanks
 - There are no external resources required regarding volunteering
 - An event for promoting awareness of timebanks and encourage broader take-up within the community is planned to take place in the next 6 months
 4. Support the development of a LGBT youth group in West Lancashire
 - Looking for funding from Children's Trust - £5/6K to research/identify gaps in support groups and possibly provide funds to groups if needed

Action: TJ to work with partners outside meeting to specify action

8. People & Communities Thematic Group – feedback Greg Mitten

- The P&CTG have now held their second meeting at Tarleton Fire Station.
- The group intends to move their meetings around the district but needs to concentrate on rural parts of West Lancashire
- No programme to date of future venues, but intends to publish timetable in near future

9. Verbal update on PRG bids – Tracey Jardine

- Tracey updated the group on the 2 PRG bids, volunteering and building social capital. The LSP had given the leads an extension on time to 25th June to work on the bids.

10. Exchange of Information

Mandy Naylor – Mandy is now on secondment – Social Enterprise Development. Louise Cropper has now taken up Mandy's post on a temporary basis. Mandy will continue to attend the CCTG meetings.

Pam Smith – Living Library books is planned to visit Skelmersdale Library in September/October. There will be publicity soon regarding this event.

John Miller – Equality Act passed with a duty for Public Sector Organisations to promote across all strands.

LGBT master class in June – John will send in details

Phyllis Roberts – Sexual Health event to be held on 21st June – Phyllis to send contacts to Tracey Jardine

11. Proposed items for next meeting

- DVD Hate Crime – Tracey Jardine
- Living Books – Pam Smith
- Report if available from Saulo
- Police Neighbourhood Strategy – B Pendleton