

## WEST CHESHIRE TOGETHER LSP REPORT

Report title	Briefing note on a Community Cohesion Strategy
Description	Proposed approach to developing and agreeing a Community Cohesion Strategy for West Cheshire
Document purpose	To advise Partners of the proposed approach by Cheshire West and Chester Council to develop a Strategy for adoption by West Cheshire Together LSP
Circulation list	Thematic Partnership Chairs and Area Partnership Board Chairs
Author	Alistair Jeffs
Contact details	Head of Service Policy, Performance & Partnership Cheshire West and Chester Council <a href="mailto:Alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">Alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01244 972228
Publication date	12/10/2009
Target audience	Thematic Partnership Chairs and Area Partnership Board Chairs
Cross reference	<p>“Guidance for local authorities on how to mainstream community cohesion into other services” (August 2009)</p> <p>“Guidance on building a local sense of belonging” (January 2009)</p> <p>“Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring” (May 2008)</p>
<b>Report narrative</b>	
<p>1. Community Cohesion, and Equality &amp; Diversity issues more generally, is a key priority for the LSP. This features prominently on our interim and emerging Sustainable Community Strategy and in the recent CAA self-assessment.</p> <p>Action Plans are in place in our LAA to address some of these issues (i.e.  NI 1 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (Corporate Priority)  NI 4 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality (Corporate and LAA Priority).</p> <p>2. However, the Partnership lacks a co-ordinated and strategic approach (and</p>	

supporting set of actions/outcomes) for Community Cohesion.

- 3.** CW &C have begun an audit of current activities in this area and would like to work with partners to develop a comprehensive and outcome-focussed Community Cohesion Strategy from 2010/11 onwards. The key steps proposed are as follows:-
- October: Produce Draft Strategy and approach for consulting on Action Plan
  - CW&C Internal Audit of current and planned activities:-
    - 4<sup>th</sup> November                      Equality & Diversity Service Champions
    - 26<sup>th</sup> November                      Heads of Service
  - External – as part of the consultation exercises on the Sustainable, Community Strategy, Local Development Framework and Local Transport Plan to engage with external groups to develop an Action Plan and inform the Community Cohesion Strategy.
  - Thematic Leads 18<sup>th</sup> January
  - LSP January 28<sup>th</sup> to receive Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan.
- 4.** The LSP is asked to comment and endorse this work programme and identify any lead officers that they wish to be closely involved in this activity

**Decision/Action required**

Thematic Partnership Chairs and Area Partnership Board Chairs comment upon, agree and endorse the proposed approach and timetable.