



Developing our Social Cohesion Work: Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise members about the work of the Group and its progress.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Community Cohesion Group was originally set up by the LSP to develop projects that will improve the integration of migrant workers and BME communities, so that they can contribute to community life in the City, utilising the LPSA Reward Grant that had been set aside by the LSP to support work in this area.
- 2.2 The membership of the Group is broad, representing a variety of organisations that have an interest in this area. They include: Cambs. Constabulary; Cambs. Fire and Rescue Service; County Council (CREDS); County Council (OCYPS); County Council (Community Development); County Council (Supporting People), CCVS, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum; City Council (Community Development); City Council (Strategy and Partnerships); City Council (Economic Development); City Council (Safer Communities), Harambee and GET Group. A representative is being sought to cover local schools.
- 2.3 To date the Group has met twice and has helped guide the development of the Migrant Worker Project (led by Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum) and started to share initiatives taking place in the City and to discuss wider funding opportunities.

3. Work Programme

- 3.1 The work programme will cover:

- ***Improving our understanding of existing communities in Cambridge City***

How: - City Council Community Development Survey on BME communities
- Research Group Survey of Recent Migrant Trends
- Safer City's Survey on Integration, Britishness and Young people
- Evidence from Cambridge Ethnic Community Forums LSP project
- Sharing knowledge in open forum session of Group meeting

When: - The above baseline is nearing completion

- ***Mapping existing interventions that are bringing people from different communities together***



How: - Rapid Appraisal Survey of existing initiatives

When: Survey has been circulated and a number of responses have been received. A report showing findings is being prepared for the next meeting of the Sub-group.

Examples of interventions planned or underway:

- OCYPS Participation and decision making event for young people in July
- Police will be recruiting a new Open Out Co-ordinator and have recently organised drugs awareness courses for Bangladeshi Community – good turnouts for both sessions
- Community Cohesion Strategy Group (County) are working with trainee teachers and young people to help reduce extremism
- Fire Service – looking at how to engage with communities on fire prevention and are consulting on a new community safety strategy.
- CCVS – capacity building with BME groups
- Cambridge Mediation Service – funded by Safer Communities to run clinics in Arbury and Abbey to bring different communities closer together. Project linked with the Tenants Federation and CECF
- City Community Development will be starting a regular Equalities Bulletin that will include information from community groups
- Fortnightly community cohesion “problem solving” meetings being held between Safer Communities and the Police to monitor tensions between different groups of people in the community

Snapshot of recent projects bringing people closer together:

- Cambridge residents sharing culture perspectives of life in the City - Buchan Street Community Centre event bringing older people together from White British, Caribbean, Indian and Muslim communities
- Bling Ya Ting Talent Show - 353 people from a variety of different communities took part
- Over 50s group and Street Voices group - joint events in Arbury
- World Dance Day -Arbury and Kings Hedges
- Akeman Street annual party.
- Bangladeshi Women’s Health Project
- liC funding providing training, employment, and confidence building for members of groups underrepresented in the workforce – Bangladeshi, Pakistani, African and Caribbean.
- ***Looking at what is working and identifying gaps where work is needed***

How: Group to look across initiatives and form an opinion of the types of work that bring the biggest gains for the investment

When: To commence at the Group’s next meeting. A report showing the views of the Group and the findings of the Rapid Appraisal Survey will be presented to the next meeting.



- ***Proposing projects to the LSP that will raise the level of social cohesion in the City***

How: When agreement has been reached about the broad areas for investment, the Group will work up projects to recommend to the LSP Board for investment.

When: Report prepared for the autumn meeting of the LSP Board.

4 Migrant Impact Fund

- 4.1 The Government launched a new fund in March 2009 aimed at reducing short-term pressures on local public services including councils, schools, NHS and the police brought about by migration so that pressures are managed effectively for the benefit of the whole community.
- 4.2 Economic migrants and students coming to the UK from outside the EU will be charged a levy in addition to their normal visa application fee. The revenue will form the Migrants Impact Fund. The Fund will mean that migrants are being asked to pay an additional contribution to that which they already make through taxes, to support the communities in which they live.
- 4.3 All regions of England will receive a proportion of the funding. The amount each receives will be weighted towards the areas where international migration has had the greatest short-term impact. The Eastern Region has received £3.5m.
- 4.4 Funding will be allocated to local projects from Government Offices working closely with local partners. Projects considered for funding must be able to demonstrate that they bring benefits to the settled as well as the migrant community in an area. For example additional English language provision for migrants will mean reducing the cost to public services from translation and interpretation. Projects might also include taking action against rogue landlords, extra teachers in school with high migrant populations, measures to increase GP registration, or targeted support for policing.
- 4.5 Cambridgeshire County Council submitted an application (a summary document) consisting of 18 bids for £1m on 1 May. Feedback is expected in mid-June. This application is shown in Appendix 1. This was accompanied by a letter of support from the Chair of Cambridgeshire Together and the five district LSP's.
- 4.6 Three bids were prepared by the City Council with local partners and taken forward. These were:
 - Cambridgeshire Area Resettlement Support (9.)
 - Extension of advocacy and support services for migrant workers (12.)



- Combating overcrowding, exploitation and health and safety issues for migrant workers in Private Rented Accommodation (14.)
- 4.7 As DCLG has only allocated £3.4m to the eastern region and our (Year 1) bid is £1m, it is uncertain how successful the bid will be. The timescale for preparation was tight and this report represents the first opportunity to present work to the LSP Board.
- 5. Board members are asked to:**
- 1. Note the outline work programme for the Group and to give direction as necessary**
 - 2. Note the submission for Cambridgeshire to the Migrant Impact Fund**

