



COMMUNITY COHESION IN LEICESTERSHIRE



BACKGROUND

- Disturbances in Burnley, Oldham and Bradford, 2001
- Independent Review Team headed by Ted Cante
- Report included 67 key recommendations
- Many elements of community cohesion relevant to towns and cities across Britain



The broad working definition is that a cohesive community is one where:

- There is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities.
- The diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and positively valued.
- Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities.
- Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods.



COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

EXISTING

- The new LLSP newsletter and website will be used to communicate updates on the Community Strategy, an Annual Review of progress against actions will be undertaken and priority actions identified on an annual basis
- Leicestershire County Council has a Lead Member for Equalities and a senior Equalities Officer

POTENTIAL

- Diversity training could be added to County Council Member Training Programme



COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

EXISTING

- Compact in place for Leicestershire, Blaby and North West Leicestershire, others in development
- Policy Appraisal and Consultation Code of Conduct under Compact, delivered through the Leicestershire Together Consultation Forum
- Compact Code of Conduct on Funding the Voluntary Sector

POTENTIAL

- Joint training sessions for LCC and voluntary sector and BME groups with input in relation to developing these programmes



FAITH COMMUNITIES

EXISTING

- The Lord Chancellors Advisory Committee monitors the recruitment of Justices of the Peace to ensure that Benches represent the communities they serve
- There is a Leicester Council of Faiths

POTENTIAL



YOUNG PEOPLE

EXISTING

- Young Persons Citizens Jury held 2002
- Sub Group established to take forward Community Strategy priority actions around young people
- Youth Portal to be piloted from the end of March - design and content input from young people

POTENTIAL



ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES & TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES

EXISTING

- Outreach Development Worker funded through EYDCP who assists asylum seeking families to integrate into local community, particularly to access local pre-school provision
- Travellers Sites and Liaison Officer & Traveller Education Service has regular contact with travellers on both authorised and unauthorised sites

POTENTIAL

- Links with LCC Racist Incident Monitoring Project
- Continue to raise issues about accommodation and planning



REGENERATION

EXISTING

POTENTIAL



SPORTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES

EXISTING

- LCC Cultural Strategy recently adopted
- Sport Through Education Strategy in place for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland - Joint Management Group and Steering Group in place to monitor and evaluate
- Theatre in Education commissioned to support delivery of drug education

POTENTIAL

- Healthy Schools Programme bid for Arts Council funding to link arts and health



EDUCATION

EXISTING

- 13 schools in Leicestershire have Ethnic Minority Achievement Service workers, who promote parental involvement
- All schools have the anti-racist video “Throwing Stones”, workshops are held to support schools in the use of the video
- A website is being developed to provide up to date information for parents, teachers and students on racist bullying

POTENTIAL

- A global education programme is being developed by the LEA in partnership with schools
- A corporate international vision statement and strategy is being drawn up and should be in place by the summer



EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

EXISTING

- Leicestershire's PSA includes a target to increase the employment rate for people with disabilities by March 2006
- Diversity and equality considerations are now built into procurement processes and suppliers must also comply with obligations under equalities legislation

POTENTIAL



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING

EXISTING

- Police give racist incidents a Level 1 response priority
- Force's response to hate crimes communicated on the web
- Beat managers and community support officers work with communities and manage all intelligence
- Meet with rep's of Black Police Association to discuss training to public bodies on diversity/race relations issues

POTENTIAL

- In process of setting up common, multi-agency monitoring system for racist incidents. Training around third party reporting to be delivered to front line workers with participant agencies



PRESS AND MEDIA

EXISTING

- Comprehensive corporate communications strategy being developed including new areas such as consultation, website and customer relations
- Leicestershire Matters delivered to every household and includes news on LCC and partnership achievements

POTENTIAL

- Explore involvement of media in key partnerships and develop a protocol to manage their involvement
- Explore ways of promoting a positive view of diversity through the Leicestershire media