

Community Cohesion refresh

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What is Community Cohesion?

- Community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another.

Why do we need a community cohesion strategy?

- To bring together Merton Partnership's commitment to cohesion in one document
- Improving community understanding
- Facing future funding issues together
- Increasing opportunity

Achievements from the 1st strategy

- Youth Parliament established
- Acacia Intergenerational Centre opened
- Community Cohesion budget
- Community Tension Monitoring process established

Community Mapping recommendations

- Employment and Economic development
- Supporting small and medium sized Voluntary and Community organisations
- Faith Communities – encourage more inter faith dialogue
- Deliver the BAME Strategic Plan
- Engagement

Developing priorities

- BAME Strategic Plan
- Community Plan
- Community Mapping
- Community Tension Monitoring
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Priorities

- Improving engagement with minority and new communities
- Supporting and engaging with the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Supporting employment and economic development opportunities

Priorities

- Engaging and supporting children, young people and parents
- Continuing interfaith dialogue
- Monitoring community tensions and maintaining community cohesion

Questions

- Do you think we have the right priorities?
- How can the Voluntary and Community Sector support the delivery of the strategy?
- How should the strategy be monitored?

Next Steps

- Share views today
- Share views via MVSC
- Email/call me at evereth.willis@merton.gov.uk or 020 8545 4637