

Coventry Partnership Guide to Partnership Working – Group Assessment

Date of assessment	Wednesday 23 rd April 2008
Name of Group	Equalities and Community Cohesion Theme Group
Members taking part in assessment	Sue Bent, Jenni Venn, Debbie Briggs, Alison Quigley, Balbir Sohal, June Jeffrey, Alison Porter, Surindar Nagra, Sally Giles, Phil Dunn, Adam Race
Group Leader / Chair name & signature	Sue Bent

Standard	Current position Strengths/Weaknesses	Agreed actions for future improvement
<p>1. Purpose and context</p>	<p>The Terms of Reference state that the purpose of the group is about ensuring that the E&CC agenda is being embedded into the Coventry Partnership agenda. The group's role is to influence what the other groups are doing and to use our expertise and knowledge in a constructive way to support the other theme groups.</p> <p>Over the past year the group has contributed to the SCS and shared information with each other.</p> <p>The outcomes in the Terms of Reference state that the group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute towards improving the quality of life for the people of Coventry • Promote Coventry Partnership's Community Cohesion Protocol <p>This is about ensuring that equal outcomes are delivered through the work of the other theme groups. We can measure our success by looking at how the other theme group's targets reflect E&CC issues. We need to ensure that all theme groups have a positive impact on community cohesion.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be updated to ensure that they are still up to date and reflect the revised definition of Community Cohesion.</p>

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	<p>Sue asked the group whether people feel we are going in the right direction and whether we are sharing knowledge and good practice enough. Do we need to profile this more in the content of our agendas?</p> <p>Balbir said that there is a Citizen's Day which was piloted last year by 3 authorities, which profiles community cohesion projects. This will link in with Coventry's Positive Images Festival. Balbir agreed to circulate guidance in relation to this. Schools are also being asked to do a week of events caloled "Who do you think you are?" which links to community cohesion. This will be an annual event.</p> <p>Sue said that we need to try and ensure that when there are city wide events that this group is aware of them and can promote them.</p> <p>Balbir said that there is also a big event to be held in Coventry around Holocaust memorial Day. Them theme for this event is "Stand Against Hatred".</p> <p>Jenni said that there is an event called "Walk Talk" involving a victim of 7/7 who will be walking from Beeston in Leeds to London http://www.walktalk.org.uk/ Walk Talk are looking for sponsors and side events to be involved. Phil Dunn said that Hillfields have been running a project called "It's good to talk" recognising the diversity of language and promoting healthy walks in the city. Jenni said that we could think about inviting Gill Hicks from Walk Talk to Coventry Peace Month events.</p> <p>Balbir said that there will be a "Peace Jam Slam" in October. This is a 1 day conference where young people will share information about projects they have been involved in and what they have done in relation to peace, reconciliation and</p>	<p>Balbir Sohal to circulate guidance on the Citizen's Day.</p>

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	<p>community cohesion.</p> <p>The group talked about whether there was a way to collate information on community cohesion events and pass this on to others. This could be done via a newsletter or web site. Jenni said that there are opportunities to use the Partnership web site. This could be done via the Partnership's new Communications Officer. We would need to think about how we would get local groups to look at this. We could send out a hard copy version through the CEN and CVSC newsletters and also Cityvision and the Council's regeneration newsletter. Jenni said that there is a communications group that is trying to produce a calendar of what's on in Coventry involving the university, the Council and other organisations. June Jeffrey said that the CEN web site includes a calendar of events which had 36,000 hits last month. We could get community cohesion events on to these calendars and also have links to the Coventry Partnership's web site.</p> <p>The group agreed that everyone is happy that our role is to support the other theme groups to achieve equality and community cohesion outcomes.</p>	
<p>2. Accessibility</p>	<p>The group agreed that they are getting the right information from the meetings and they are happy with the way things are going.</p> <p>Everyone agreed that they are happy to continue meeting at St Peter's</p>	
<p>3. Decision-making</p>	<p>Sue asked whether people are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear about what we are here for • happy about the way in which we progress decisions • happy that we have the right people around the table • happy with the way we record decisions and feed back 	

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	<p>Balbir said that we need to involve young people right from the beginning. This would come under point 3.11 of the guidance. The guidance is adopted by the partnership and it was agreed that the group would ask them to flesh out point 3.11 regarding this.</p> <p>Sue asked whether the group feels that we have the right people around the table. This will also link to the discussion item later on the agenda regarding a reference group.</p> <p>Item 3.9 in the guidance relates to a complaints procedure. Is there a generic complaints procedure for all theme groups.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the group would feed back to the Coventry Partnership and ask them to strengthen point 3.11 of the guidance around the involvement of young people.</p> <p>It was agreed that we would write round to the other theme group members and ask if meetings are at a good time for them and whether there are any issues with regard to the way meetings are run, etc to feed into this self assessment.</p> <p>It was agreed that we would clarify this.</p>
4. Induction	<p>A joint induction took place when the group was re-convened. Some members of the group have changed since this happened. We do not always know who will be attending our meetings.</p>	<p>It was agreed that we would write to theme group members to remind them that if they are changing their representative to let us know so that we can give them some information about the group.</p>
5. Learning and training	<p>This is about learning from one another. This could be a standing agenda item, linked to the item on sharing good practice. This is not necessarily about a project but can be talking about your role or area of work.</p>	<p>It was agreed that there would be a standing agenda item on Sharing Learning and Good Practice.</p>
6. Preparation and paperwork	<p>People agreed that they are happy with the preparation and paperwork for this group.</p> <p>Alison said that some of the other theme groups do not use plain language, and we should think about whether we can influence this. Sue said that all theme groups should undertake their own self assessment against this guidance. In addition, there are people on this group who are also part of other groups and we need to champion this.</p>	

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	<p>Balbir said that a statement about language can be very powerful, but language is constantly evolving and it is important to have an atmosphere which is open.</p> <p>Sue said that when other groups bring strategies to us for comment we should try and ensure that they are in an accessible format.</p> <p>Sally said that the meetings are well supported, paperwork is received on time and the meetings are chaired in a friendly style. However, we should keep an eye on the volume of information that is sent out.</p>	
7. Agenda and minutes	The group agreed that the agenda and minutes of meetings are clear and sent out on time.	
8. Style of meetings	The group agreed that the meetings are well run and the Sue does a good job of chairing them.	

Other comments: