

**COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY REVIEW
2010/11: EVIDENCE GATHERING**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP3: SAFE CITY

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: C101: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council, C104: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to feedback on the attendance of members to the Show Racism the Red Card Event held at the Stadium of Light on 8 November 2011.
- 1.2 Members attended the event as part of the evidence gathering process for its policy review into community cohesion.
- 1.3 The report also includes an opportunity for members to feedback on their visit to Durham Prison which took place on Wednesday 16 November 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 7 June 2011, the Committee agreed to undertake a policy review into the actions and interventions being taken by the Council and its partners in relation community cohesion and how national policy will impact on the city.
- 2.2 Members chose this area in view of the importance attached by local people to the related issues of improving employment opportunities, tackling poverty, improving educational attainment, securing better housing and improving sport and cultural activities.
- 2.3 It was agreed that the policy should review should include consideration of the following themes:-
 - the background and policy context for the development of community cohesion at a national and local level;
 - the priorities for a future refresh of the Sunderland Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy;
 - the range of community cohesion interventions in the city across a number of themes including young people, sport and cultural activities, education, housing and planning, community

safety and policing, press and media and ethnic and minority groups;

- the policies and programmes of the Council, its partners and the community and voluntary sector which can help bring people together across the city and build bridges between communities;
- the range of interventions being taken to tackle tensions for example between older and younger generations within neighbourhoods and communities;

3 Current Position

3.1 As part of its policy review, the Committee attended a session held for local schools by Show Racism the Red Card at the Stadium of Light on 8 November 2011.

3.2 Show Racism the Red Card is an educational charity established in 1996 which aims to combat racism through enabling role models, who are predominately but not exclusively footballers, to present an anti-racist message to young people and others.

3.3 The organisation works with schools throughout the North East and East and South East of England to deliver anti-racism workshops to more than 10,000 young people every year. The aim is to:-

- educate young people about the causes and consequences of racism and to explore the various forms racism can take.
- empower young people to challenge racism in the communities in which they live, providing them with relevant knowledge and information to enable them to do this.
- help young people prepare to play an active role as citizens in an increasingly multi-cultural society.
- enable young people to develop good relationships and respect the differences between people, regardless of their ethnicity, faith, culture or nationality.

3.4 Members of the Committee sat in on one of the workshops conducted by a member of the educational team for the young people. This proved a challenging and thought provoking session which encouraged discussion and critical thinking of the issues involved.

3.5 Members of the Committee also had the opportunity to meet with Ged Grebby, Chief Executive of Show Racism the Red Card to discuss the

philosophy that underpins their work and their aims and priorities for the future.

- 3.6 This was followed by an educational film which dealt with racism in football and featured interviews with top Premier league and international footballers.
- 3.7 Finally, the young people took part in a question and answer session involving members of their Community Education Team, including:- former Sunderland Captain Gary Bennett, ex-Newcastle and Republic of Ireland international John Anderson, ex-Newcastle United defender Olivier Bernard and ex-Leicester City player Trevor Benjamin. These were joined by current Sunderland FC players Fraizer Campbell and David Meyler.

Visit To Durham Prison

- 3.8 On 16 November 2011, members of the Committee undertook a visit to Durham Prison. Members were accompanied by Louise Hill, Reducing Reoffending Manager.
- 3.9 Members were provided with a tour the prison and an opportunity to view the employment support and training on offer to prisoners.
- 3.10 Further feed back on the visit will be provided at the meeting.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are recommended to consider the report which will be included as part of its policy review into community cohesion.

5. Background Papers

Sunderland Partnership – Community Cohesion Strategy 2008-2015

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