

THE EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMUNITY COHESION GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The *East Sunderland Area Community Cohesion Group* (hereafter known as the Group) will be made up of nominated officers from the Sunderland Partnership, other statutory agencies, the voluntary and community sector, and other organisations actively involved in provision of services and support to young people and the wider population living in the East area of the City.

Purpose of the Group

The Group is about making a difference to the lives of all residents in the above area by:

- Working together to implement positive change thereby improving the cohesiveness of the area
- Building community identity, pride in place and developing relationships among all residents of the community
- Developing trust and mutual respect among local communities
- Developing local indicators of cohesion that will link to the Local Area Agreement, the Community Cohesion Strategy, Local Area Plan and Inclusive Communities priorities of the Sunderland Strategy.

The Group will aim to meet these challenges through:

- The development of an action plan and strategy for the area and its communities
- The development of a rapid response group comprised of front-line staff from the organisations listed above. This group, known as the Community Cohesion Practitioners Network, meets monthly to consider quick and appropriate responses to issues of shared interest and feeds into the overall work of the Group.
- Sharing good practice, information and ideas
- Targeting interventions between groups and individuals in order to resolve conflict
- Identifying local tension points and understanding where grievances and myths are circulating
- Identifying gaps in service provision and determining whether these can be met from existing resources, structures and organisations
- Planning and implementing a programme of activities that promotes community cohesion in the area.

Membership

Membership of the Group should comprise a lead officer, and nominated substitute, of a grade sufficiently able to influence policy and practice within the organisation they represent. A senior member of the Council's Diversity and Inclusion team shall initially chair the Group, though this will be open to discussion with a view to sharing this responsibility among members at a later date.

Members are expected to link with and provide feedback to the whole of their organisation, not just the service area they represent.

The Agenda

- A reminder will be sent to all group members two weeks before the next meeting requesting items for the agenda.
- The Council's Diversity and Inclusion Team will circulate the agenda at least three working days in advance of the meeting. All items must therefore be received at least 1 week in advance.
- All issues must relate to the tabled agenda item. The Chair reserves the right to disallow any exchanges or debate that are not relevant to that particular item.
- Queries should only be put to other group members if they are directly relevant to the item under discussion.
- Regular set items are to be time restricted at the discretion of the Chair.

Support and Frequency of Meetings

The Group will meet approximately every 6 weeks. This however can be reviewed and the frequency changed if considered appropriate. The Council's Diversity and Inclusion Team will initially chair, support and service the Group.

Minutes

The minutes will be circulated within 14 working days of a meeting and will contain a clear list of action points and individual responsibilities.