



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Working Group – Community Cohesion & Hate Crime

At: Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

On: Wednesday, 20 June 2018

Time: 4.00 pm

Convenor: Councillor Louise Gibbard

Membership:

Councillors: Y V Jardine, W G Lewis, I E Mann, S Pritchard, M Sykes, G J Tanner, L G Thomas and L V Walton

Agenda

Page No.

- 1 **Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**
www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests
- 3 **Notes and Conveners Letter** 1 - 4
Notes and Conveners letter from previous meeting on 14 November 2017
- 4 **Community Cohesion in Swansea - Q&A Session** 5 - 12
Q&A Session with
 - Declan Cahill, South Wales Police
 - Paul Thomas, Resilience
 - Jane Whitmore, Poverty and Prevention Swansea
 - Riaz Hassan, Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator (Swansea, N&PT, Bridgend)
- 5 **Next Steps**
Working Group will discuss and make conclusions/recommendations that will be put in a letter to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities.

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Wednesday, 13 June 2018

Contact: Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer



To:
Councillor Will Evans
Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities

Please ask for: Scrutiny
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Date 30 November 2017
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Community Cohesion and Hate Crime Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities following the meeting of the Working Group on 14 November 2017.

Dear Cllr Evans

The Community Cohesion and Hate Crime Scrutiny Working Group met on 14 November to look at the work to support and promote community cohesion and tackle issues around hate crime. This letter provides you with feedback from that meeting.

We would like to thank you, Jane Whitmore, Paul Thomas and Duncan Cahill of South Wales Police for attending to present the report and answer questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

Whilst the Working Group found the meeting informative and interesting, it did have some concerns and we would like to make the following comments:

- We heard that this is a developing area of work and that a partnership approach is very important.
- We also heard that there is an issue around how we tackle problems and bring communities together.
- We expressed our concerns about the reporting of hate crime in the media and on social media. We were particularly concerned about the Evening Post and other local newspapers reporting of hate crime and tensions within communities which could in turn encourage some members of the public to deliberately cause trouble. We would like closer working with local media to encourage more neutral reporting of these issues. We were informed that this is happening and that locally the relationship with the media is improving but that there is not much we can do nationally. We heard that it is very difficult to regulate social media. We feel that education is key to this.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE

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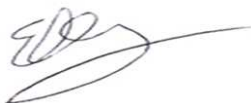
- The Panel were informed that the police are looking at different ways to obtain tension indicators for hate crime so that they can understand what is going on better. A piece of work needs to be undertaken to join up the information coming in. Councillors can feed into the process by contacting their Police Community Officers (PCOs).
- We had concerns about PCOs working in certain areas as people do not know who they are and what their role is.
- We were pleased to hear that Welsh Government is providing funding to seven organisations. We would like to know how effective these organisations are. Funding does not appear to be filtering down to a local level.
- The Working Group felt there is not enough community cohesion training and training sessions and one and a half hours are not long enough to cover everything that should be covered.
- The Council provides training on specifics but in terms of community cohesion the Working Group suggests we look again at our equalities training. We will share the learning we have from other areas with you and relevant officers.

Following the meeting, we discussed progress and made the following conclusions:

- We feel that the Hate Crime Strategy is a fairly robust framework and a good strategy.
- We felt that there is a lot of work to do on community cohesion as there is no overarching direction or strategy.
- Swansea's definition of community cohesion focusses too much on the crime element. We would like to see a better balance.
- We will be recommending to the Scrutiny Programme Committee that a further meeting of the Working Group be held in six months to focus on community cohesion, as we are concerned about the lack of a plan / strategy for this aspect. We think it would be helpful if the Community Cohesion Coordinator attends the meeting when it reconvenes in six months.
- We feel that community cohesion is a possible future scrutiny inquiry topic or matter which needs to be picked up by the relevant Policy Development and Delivery Committee.

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome any further comments on any of the issues raised however **we do not expect you to provide a formal response.**

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT KING
CONVENER, COMMUNITY COHESION AND HATE CRIME SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP
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City and County of Swansea

Notes of the Scrutiny Working Group – Community Cohesion & Hate Crime

Committee Room 5, Guildhall, Swansea - Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 14 November 2017 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor E J King (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
I E Mann
G J Tanner

Councillor(s)

Y V Jardine
S Pritchard
L V Walton

Councillor(s)

W G Lewis
M Sykes

Other Attendees

Duncan Cahill
William Evans

South Wales Police
Cabinet Member - Stronger Communities

Officer(s)

Liz Jordan
Paul Thomas
Jane Whitmore

Scrutiny Officer
Community Integration and Partnership Manager
Partnership & Commissioning Manager

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): L G Thomas

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

No interests declared.

2 Community Cohesion and Hate Crime Overview

Paul Thomas, Community Integration and Partnership Manager attended to present the report. Councillor Will Evans, Jane Whitmore and Duncan Cahill of South Wales Police also attended and answered questions.

The following main issues were discussed:

- This is a developing area of work.
- A partnership approach is very important.
- There is an issue about how we tackle problems and bring communities together.
- Working Group concerned about reporting of hate crime in the media and on social media and would like closer working with local newspapers. Informed

that locally relationship with media is improving but not much we can do nationally. Very difficult to regulate social media. Education is key to this.

- Police looking at different ways to obtain tension indicators for hate crime so they can understand what is going on. Councillors can feed into the process by contacting their Police Community Officers (PCOs). A piece of work needs to be undertaken to join up the information coming in.
- Working Group had concerns about PCOs working in areas as people don't know who they are and what their role is.
- Welsh Government is providing funding to 7 organisations. Working Group would like to know how effective these organisations are. Funding does not appear to be filtering down to a local level.
- Working Group felt there is not enough community cohesion training and training sessions and one and a half hours are not long enough to cover everything that should be covered.
- Council provides training on specifics but in terms of community cohesion the Working Group suggests we look again at our equalities training. The Working Group will share the learning it has from other areas with relevant officers.

3 Discussion and Conclusions

The Panel discussed progress and made the following conclusions:

- Hate Crime Strategy is a fairly robust framework and is a good strategy
- There is a lot of work to do on community cohesion as there is no overarching direction or strategy.
- Swansea's definition of community cohesion focusses too much on the crime element. Working Group would like to see a better balance.
- Working Group will recommend to Scrutiny Programme Committee that a further meeting be held in six months to focus on community cohesion as concerned about lack of a plan / strategy for this aspect. Useful for Community Cohesion Coordinator to attend the meeting.
- Working Group felt that community cohesion is a possible future scrutiny inquiry topic or matter which needs to be picked up by relevant Policy Development & Delivery Committee.

Following on from this meeting:

- A letter will be written from the convener of the Working Group to the Cabinet Member, summarising the discussion and outlining the Working Group's thoughts and recommendations.

The meeting ended at 5.45 pm



Report of the Convener of the Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

20 June 2018

Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

Purpose:	To look at progress with Community Cohesion as it affects residents of Swansea.
Content:	Q&A session looking at Community Cohesion
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information provided and make the panels views known to the Cabinet Member via a Conveners Letter
Lead Councillor:	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Convener Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

1. Background

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agreed to set up a working group to look at community cohesion and hate crime in Swansea at their meeting in June 2017. A meeting of the Working Group took place on the 14 November 2017 which mainly looked at the hate crime aspects. The Working Group agreed to convene a further meeting to consider those aspects specific to community cohesion.

2. Community Cohesion in Swansea

2.1 The following people have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Cllr Will Evans, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities
- Declan Cahill, South Wales Police
- Paul Thomas, Resilience
- Jane Whitmore, Poverty and Prevention Swansea
- Riaz Hassan, Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator (Swansea, N&PT, Bridgend)

2.3 The following questions, agreed by the Working Group, have been sent to all those invited to attend so that they can prepare for this Q&A session.

1. The Panel heard their our last meeting about the working definition of Community Cohesion which includes *enabling of different groups of people to get on well together* and *developing respect in the differences in our society?* They would like more information on these aspects. Particularly some detail on the projects that make up these aspects along with any outcomes you have noted.

2. They would like further information on the barriers experienced in improving Community Cohesion and how we are addressing or mitigating them.
3. Can you let them know how we monitor the success of our efforts in relation to Community Cohesion, what are the measurable parts of the Community Cohesion strategy? Can they have an example of some of this data?
4. How is partnership working around the community cohesion aspect actually working? Can improvements be made and how?
5. At the last meeting they looked at the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan, they commented that most of the objectives are national, could they have more information on Objectives and Outcomes that relate to Swansea specifically or how we translate them in the local context?
6. Do we have any mechanism for working with and feeding back to ward councillors about the objectives and outcomes in their local areas?
7. How are local ward Councillors involved community cohesion projects?
8. On one of the original presentation slides it mentions the *Key Achievements in Mainstreaming Community Cohesion*. Can you please provide some examples of these that are benefiting local residents/communities on the ground?

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Panel are asked to discuss and consider the evidence gathered from this exercise and to give their views via a Conveners letter to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities.

Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

20th June 2018



Introduction

- Initial presentation to Scrutiny Working Group on 14th November 2017
- Request to attend meeting on 20th June 2018 to provide an update to specific questions raised by Members
- Opportunity to discuss progress and outcomes



Western Bay Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator Role

- WG funds 8 Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinators across Wales to take forward mainstreaming community cohesion work across the region.
- Community Cohesion Co-ordinator will continue to play an important strategic role to drive partnership working and implement delivery of national objectives at the local level.



‘Enabling of different groups of people to get on well together and developing respect in the differences in our society’

Examples of projects delivering on the statement above:

- ‘Our Abertawe’ – Celebrating Swansea Together
- Local employability programmes
- Disability Liaison Group
- Swansea LGBT Forum
- Regional BAME Forum
- Student and resident initiatives
- EID in the Park



‘Enabling of different groups of people to get on well together and developing respect in the differences in our society’

Examples of projects delivering on the statement above:

- Intercultural Cities Network
- Hate Crime awareness week and online training
- Anti-Slavery/Human Trafficking awareness
- Mosque Open Day
- School initiatives
- Syrian Resettlement Programme, Refugees and Asylum Seeker support



Barriers to improving Community Cohesion

How are we addressing them and outcomes?

- Welsh Language Promotion
- Loss of Communities First Programme
- Promotion and awareness raising
- Swansea City of Sanctuary
- Corporate training via e-learning programmes
- Swansea Pride
- Mistrust of Police and the Establishment



Monitoring of success

Evidence of progress and outcomes

- Equality Impact Assessments
- Annual Review of the Strategic Equality Plan
- Monitoring of learning and employment outcomes
- Disability Liaison Group
- Evaluation of Staff training
- Monitoring Hate Crime Incidents



Partnership working in Practice

Examples and areas for improvement

- Professional partners tend to work well together. There needs to be improvement with third sector organisations working together when they have the same aim and objectives/outcomes
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Providers Group
- More initiatives need to try to be inclusive of a cross section of the community rather than just BAME/asylum seeker and refugee for example as this will continue to segregate



National Objectives

Local examples in Swansea

- Community Safety themed radio campaigns
- Hate Crime/Anti-Slavery/LGBT awareness week
- Awareness sessions tackling Right Wing Extremism and Islamophobia
- Gypsy Roma Traveller and Human Trafficking awareness events and training
- Workshop Raising Awareness on PREVENT



Engagement with Ward Councillors

What does current support and involvement look like?

- Local employability programmes involvement
- Employability Ward Member Briefings (CfW/CfW+)
- PACT meetings
- Cabinet Member 1.2.1 briefings



‘Key achievements in mainstreaming Community Cohesion’

Examples that are directly benefiting local residents/communities

- Joint Local Authority and SWP on Sex Workers
- Street Vulnerability MARAC
- Students and Residents joint initiative in Brynmill
- Increased awareness on Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Syrian Resettlement Programme has employment strand that sits in Workways



Thank You

Any Questions

