



**To/
Councillor Mary Sherwood
Cabinet Member for Better
Communities (People)**

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2 July 2018

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Community Cohesion Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Better Communities (People) following the meeting of the Working Group on 20 June 2018.

Dear Cllr Sherwood

The Community Cohesion Working Group met on 20 June to look at the work to support and promote community cohesion. This letter provides you with feedback from that meeting.

We would like to thank Jane Whitmore, Riaz Hassan and Duncan Cahill of South Wales Police for attending to make a presentation and answer questions.

We found the meeting informative and interesting. We discussed progress on a number of issues looking particularly at:

- Role of Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator and resources available for community cohesion work.
- Work being done to enable different groups of people to get on well together and developing respect in differences in our society
- How barriers to community cohesion are being addressed and what the outcomes are
- How success is monitored and how partnership working has developed
- Local examples of work on National Objectives
- Engaging and involving Ward Members
- Some key achievements in the mainstreaming community cohesion

From the discussion we made the following conclusions:

- Ward Councillors could be included and involved more in mainstreaming community cohesion. It would be useful for Ward Members to have more

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information on what they can be involved in and what they can do to help. A regular email sent to all councillors informing them of events and activities and including links to any new myth busting or useful information could be a starting point.

- We expressed our concern about the lack and insecurity of resources for community cohesion mainstreaming due to Welsh Government funding cuts with the only resource being the Regional Co-ordinator post.
- That the current partnerships are working well.
- That a better connection with local area co-ordinators was needed, we asked whether they need to have a bigger role in the mainstreaming of community cohesion?
- We were pleased to hear about the myth busting information. Would like to see this used more widely, made available online and shared via social media.
- We heard about some of the excellent activities taking place, Councillors particularly praised the Swansea Pride event.
- Information for School Governors would be useful so they can have a direct impact on community cohesion in Swansea schools. This could include access to myth busting leaflets and advice on how they can mainstream cohesion within their school.
- More use of local media including via corporate communications to get good news stories and myth busting information out into our communities

We appreciate the good work that is being done and acknowledge the work completed since our last scrutiny activity in November 2017 including listening and acting upon our comments and recommendations.

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome any further comments on any of the issues raised but we would ask that you respond to us on the following points by 23 July 2018.

1. Developing a stronger role for Councillors in mainstreaming community cohesion.
2. Whether there needs to be a bigger role for Local Area Co-ordinators in the mainstreaming of community cohesion.
3. That the myth busting information is shared/used more widely, made available online and shared via social media.
4. That links are made with and information supplied to Governing Bodies.
5. Make more use of local media including using corporate communications to get more good news stories and myth busting out into local community.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR LOUISE GIBBARD

Convener, Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

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