



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

Wednesday, 20 June 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor L S Gibbard (Convener) Presided

Councillor(s)
W G Lewis

Councillor(s)
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)
L V Walton

Other Attendees

CI Declan Cahill
Riaz Hassan

South Wales Police - Communities & Partnerships
Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator

Officer(s)

Michelle Roberts
Jane Whitmore

Scrutiny Officer
Partnership & Commissioning Manager

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): I E Mann and G J Tanner

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None

2 Notes and Conveners Letter

The previous notes and Conveners letter were noted.

3 Community Cohesion in Swansea - Q&A Session

The Working Group invited Jane Whitmore from Poverty and Prevention, Declan Cahill from South Wales Police and Riaz Hassan the Western Bay Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator. They gave a presentation and discussed the issues with Councillors.

The following issues were discussed:

- Role of the Western Bay Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator. Welsh Government fund 8 Co-ordinators across Wales to take forward mainstreaming community cohesion work across the region. The role to drive partnership working and implement delivery of national objectives at the local level. The Co-ordinator role is strategic rather than operational. This is the only funding that is available for community cohesion work.

- No resources specifically for community cohesion. So it is about mainstreaming cohesion in everything we do, embedding it in to our activities.
- *Enabling of different group of people to get on well together and developing response in differences in our society.* Examples of projects delivering on this:
 - 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
- The can be a misconception in communities. Learning from and sharing different cultural practice helps with cohesion. There is a need to develop more and promote positive images and tackle misconceptions. Panel though Myth Busting leaflets and excellent idea that should be shared and used more widely, available both in hard copy but also online. It can then be shared by Councillors through their social media like Twitter or Facebook.
- Messages are being relayed in communities need to be current and not based upon old media.
- What is and can be done with children and young people around perceptions:
 - Deliver sessions in schools, take children to mosque
 - Good religious education delivered working with local groups
 - Deliver this part of the curriculum positively using myth busting techniques
- *Enabling of different groups of people to get on well together and developing respect in the difference in our society.* Practical examples of projects delivering on the statement about:
 - Intercultural Cities Network
 - Hate Crime awareness week online training
 - Anti-Slavery/Human Trafficking awareness
 - Mosque Open Day
 - School Initiatives like show racism the red card
 - Syrian Resettlement Programme, Refugees and Asylum Seeker support. Feedback on settling of Syrian families really positive.
- *Barriers to improving community cohesion and how we are addressing them and the outcomes.*
 - Welsh Language Promotion
 - Loss of Communities First Programme
 - Promotion and awareness raising...WG agreed that need to do more of this
 - Swansea City of Sanctuary
 - Corporate training via e-learning programmes
 - Swansea Pride
 - Mistrust of Police and the Establishment. Local community cohesion police team newly established, with new ways of working and focusing clearly on cohesion matters
 - Negative and misleading media stories. Swansea and its partners need to use the media and their own communication mechanisms like social media to raise awareness, for myth busting and to highlight positive stories. Could invite local media to events and see if they will publish stories busting myths

- *Monitoring of success and evidence on progress and outcomes*
 - Equality Impact Assessments
 - Annual Review of Strategic Equality Plan
 - Monitoring of learning and employment outcomes
 - Disability Liaison Group
 - Evaluation of staff training
 - Monitoring of Hate Crime incidents
- *Partnership working in practice and examples and areas for improvement*
 - Professional partners tend to work well together. There needs to be improvement in third sector organisations working together when they have the same aim or objectives/outcomes
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
 - 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
 - It is about all organisations working together with the aim of breaking down barriers and improving community cohesion.
 - Swansea Pride a hugely positive and enjoyable event.
- *National Objectives and local examples in Swansea*
 - Community Safety themed radio campaigns. Monthly short community safety messages, currently with Heart Radio.
 - Hate Crime/Anti-slavery/LGBT awareness weeks
 - Gypsy Roma Traveller and Human Trafficking awareness events and training
 - Workshop Raising Awareness on PREVENT
- *Engagement with Ward Councillors and what does current support and involvement look like*
 - Local employability programmes involvement
 - Employability Ward Member Briefings (Community First wards)
 - PACT meetings
 - Cabinet Member 1-1 briefings
 - Small Steps training would be useful for councillors (Jane Whitmore will enquire whether we can get WG to come back and do more sessions in Swansea)
 - Working Group agreed that more could be done with Councillors including:
How can delivery of community cohesion be improved through more involvement of local ward councillors
 - Councillors can be champions for community cohesion in their communities
 - Need practical ways of being able to do this for example access to and use of Myth Buster information
 - They could help communicate messages into and out of communities
 - Access to information/development session on for example Anti-Slavery. Could some sessions be face to face as well as those online?
- Key achievements in mainstreaming community cohesion, examples that are directly benefiting local residents/communities
 - Joint Local Authority and South Wales Police on Sex Workers

- Street Vulnerability Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference. Police lead on this. Police gather information on those who are vulnerable and causing issues in city centres. Then those identified discussed at conference to find solutions to their vulnerabilities and hopefully reducing those issues in city centres. Arresting not always best way forward for those people, need to be SMARTER in what we do. Better to address the underlying issues of individuals involved where possible.
- Students and residents joint initiative in Brynmill
- Increased awareness of Anti-slavery and Human Trafficking
- Syrian Resettlement Programme has employment strand that sits in Workways

4 Next Steps

A letter to the Cabinet Members for Better Communities will be sent reflected the views and recommendations of the Working Group.

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm

Chair



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

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

01792 637256

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

*Date
Dyddiad:*

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

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAW

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

www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

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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

✉ Cllr.louise.gibbard@swansea.gov.uk