



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