

Community Cohesion



Report to	<i>SCEP 1.2.2017</i>
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1.	Purpose of the Report
To update the partnership on the work of Crewe Community Cohesion Steering Group and to inform a discussion how we use this learning to develop a joint approach to Community Cohesion across Cheshire East.	
2.	Recommendations, decisions, or actions required by the Partnership
To receive and note the update.	
3.	Background summary
<p>Crewe is a place with great potential and an increasingly diverse community. Partners are working together to grasp the opportunity to ensure that our communities are supported and integrated to make the most of the exciting future that Crewe has. Our vision is for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Crewe to be a warm and friendly place – where people get on with each other across every community and welcome new people and make them feel at home. (ii) All people are proud to live in Crewe and respect the place and each other. <p>We know that Crewe is a place that attracts many people from different cultures and communities to live and work within, as well as having a very long established community with a strong sense of pride and heritage in the area. As an example, one of the nurseries in Crewe is reporting that there are 43 different languages spoken by the children and their parents. This is a strong illustration of the levels of diversity in Crewe and the fact that all partners, need to ensure that we respect and respond to the differing needs of our communities and encourage and facilitate community cohesion.</p> <p>For many people, the term Community Cohesion is unclear and it is often confused with race relations, or perhaps seen as relating only to minority groups and immigrants. The Crewe Community Cohesion Plan involves all communities, and is all about people in Crewe being able to build strong and positive relationships with each other and making Crewe the best place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council has invested £180,000 as an additional resource in 2016/19 to develop our approach to Community Cohesion, short, to strengthen communities, building the foundations for stronger and safer communities in CE. This investment will enable us to deliver the Crewe Action Plan and develop a CE wide Strategy and Plan.</p>	
4.	Alternative options considered
Need to discuss options for joint development of this work.	

5.	Impact on services / service users, agencies or partners
Joint approach will improve services and ensure that we respect and respond to the differing needs of our communities and encourage and facilitate community cohesion. Importantly, a proactive approach to cohesion will enable us to reduce unnecessary demand on our services.	
6.	Challenges, Risks and Opportunities
Developing our joint approach will mitigate tensions and any subsequent actions that will have a negative impact on community safety within our neighbourhoods.	
7.	Context / Activity
<p>The Crewe Community Cohesion Steering Group was set up in February 2016 and now meets regularly. Members agreed at the meeting in November 2016 to calendar meetings on a bi-monthly basis, which allows for smaller sub-group or task and finish meetings to take place if required, and the Steering Group meetings will be hosted at Sir William Stanier School to allow young people to actively participate in discussions. The role of the Steering Group focusses on monitoring and contributing to the delivery of the Community Cohesion Action Plan (attached below under 10) - an evolving and fluid series of actions that seek to address 8 key measures. Membership of the Steering Group has continued to grow and wide range of representatives now attend from Schools and Colleges, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Job Centre Plus, voluntary sector and departments from within Cheshire East Council. Activities include: - recruitment of 15 Community Connectors and 6 week training programme commenced 14.1.17. Delivery of Hate Crime Training now available to the VCF Sector and specific sessions being arranged for schools. Supported launch of South Cheshire Multi Cultural Forum who have now been briefed and will start mapping communities in 2017. 'TRUST' pack to facilitate work with diverse communities within a school setting has been developed and launched in Crewe Schools. Recruitment and appointment of Community Cohesion Manager, who will start in post February 2017, will help to drive initiative forward both strategically and operationally.</p> <p>CEC have recruited a Community Cohesion Manager on a 2-year contract who is due to start in February 2017. This role will lead this work, and work with partners to develop a borough wide approach.</p>	
8.	Financial implications
Funding is required to address issues and to deliver projects. Funding for Community Cohesion lead has been secured for 2 years, and further funding will be required to continue work longer-term.	
9.	Legal implications
Equalities Act 2010, Human Rights Act 1998	
10.	Further information
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Crewe Community Cohesion Project - Ac</p> </div> <p>Crewe Community Cohesion Action Plan (See separate attachment).</p>	