

Community Empowerment and Cohesion Working Group

Minutes 24th March 2009

Attendees

Amy Bladen	Nottingham City Council: Principle Policy Officer (Community Cohesion)
Catherine Conchar	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust: Head of Equalities and Diversity
Gary Cawthorne	Bestwood Partnership Forum – Development Manager
Heidi May [Chair]	Nottingham City Council: Area 2 Neighbourhood Manager
Jonathan Gore	Nottingham City Council Team Leader: Community Cohesion
Justine Darke	Nottingham City Council: Service Manager (Youth)
Kevin Bartlett	One Nottingham: Strategic Policy Officer
Laura Patterson [Minutes]	One Nottingham: Regeneration Officer
Lynne North	Nottingham City Council: Customer Liaison Officer
Maggie Grimshaw	One Nottingham: Strategic Policy Officer
Michael Henry	Human Relations Network: Director of Development
Mike Crooke	Human Relations Network
Ruth Greenberg	Partnership Council: Chief Officer
Tony Dennis	Nottinghamshire Police: Equality and Diversity Manager

Apologies

Hannah Wharton	Nottingham Community Network – Involving Communities Co-ordinator
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1. Cohesion DVD

MH & MC are collating images, both moving and still, which show the history of cohesion in Nottingham into a slideshow DVD for the Forum. They requested additional images from the group for inclusion on the DVD. The DVD could also be used at other future events.

Action: Any photos or moving images for inclusion in the slideshow to be forwarded to MH by Fri 3rd April at latest. These can be dropped off at NCVS or e-mailed to: xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

2. Community Cohesion and Empowerment Forum Planning

MG has sent out invitation letter to relevant organisations, together with a form to see if they are the right person from their organisation to attend. Aimed at middle-management level. Contacts are still needed for some organisations. Jean Garbett at One Nottingham is doing the administration for the Forum.

Action – AB to circulate copy of invitation letter to group members.

AB confirmed the Empowerment and Cohesion presentations are done and that Mark Bowyer is doing the MORI presentation on the results of focus groups examining what had an impact on perceptions of empowerment and cohesion.

The information from The Place survey has been delayed. If it is not ready in time for the Forum, the LAA Stretch Survey can be used as a fallback.

Venue is the Deaf Society, which can hold about 80 people. Some concern was raised over the size of the venue but it was agreed to continue with this venue for this Forum then reconsider venues for the next Forum Meeting.

List of contact people in local areas will be included in pack of information distributed at Forum.

AB has circulated the toolkit which needs to be signed off.

HM highlighted that residents are receiving lots of requests for feedback on empowerment issues and that agencies need to talk to each other and not work in silos. JG suggested this issue is raised at a future meeting and the November Forum.

There is going to be an Area Management review of Area Committee membership/participation.

The Shared Intelligence Group, which runs Nomad Plus, is trying to pull together information on all the consultation from across the City.

Action: AB to link into Shared Intelligence Group.

Focus of Forum will be on adults and JD will be the link between this Forum and the work to empower young people. Youth could be a subject of a future Forum.

Action: JD to find out about possible use of Quizdom for the Forum.

Democracy week will take place from 12th – 18th October.

Agreed the Forum should take place every 6 months and the date of the second Forum was set as **Wed 11th November, venue TBC.**

3. NI 1 & 4 Delivery Plan

JG explained that it is one of the roles of this group to hold the City Council Community Cohesion Team to account for this action plan. 8 of the 14 cohesion actions have been achieved so far.

MG suggested plan should be expanded to include Neighbourhood Management activity and also impact from recession on cohesion. CC highlighted lack of links with NHS Trust. Agreed that the plan needs to be updated to show progress to date and should use a rag rating system, using colours and symbols.

Action: Comments on the plan and contributions for the plan from April 09 – March 11 to be sent by group members to JG/AB.

Action: JG/AB to update delivery plan to show additional contributions and also what has been achieved to date.

NCC Equality and Diversity team likely to have structural change which may have an impact on cohesion and the work of this group.

Action: Feedback on structural changes to NCC Equality and Diversity Team to be provided at the next meeting of this group by AB.

4. One Nottingham Governance Review Update

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Partnership is not currently meeting but a small “holding group” is meeting instead. The final draft proposal on the governance review will go to the May ON Board. The proposal is that Theme Partnerships will be slightly revised to fit more closely with the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy. A letter was to be sent to all C&NP members by Andrew Balchin, explaining the current situation.

Action: MG to find out from Andrew Balchin if letter has been sent to all C&NP members

and to ensure it is sent if it has not already been distributed.

5. Updates from Partners

KB updated on the Salford University research on the needs of migrant workers, which will be completed by the end of March and will be launched on 22nd April at the Methodist Church on Parliament Street. JG informed the group that the underspend on the research has been used to fund the event.

AB updated on the Novas Scarman Cohesion Volunteers Project, which has £30,000 from Barrow Cadbury Trust to run a project in Nottingham and either Leicester or Derby. The project will involve people from different sections of the community and encourage them to mix with each other. The pilot project will take place in April and it will be rolled out in the summer. TD said Beata from the Polish community is looking for support for an event she is organising, which aims to share Polish culture as widely as possible and so promote cohesion. AB is part of the Cultural Celebrations group.

Action: AB to circulate Novas Scarman project brief to group members.

Agreed need to raise the profile of this group and map out where this group feeds into and also what feeds into this group.

Action: Communications Group (HM, MG, MH, Jackie Walker, and Lucy Chapman) to meet map out links as above and feed this back to the next meeting of the CE&C Working Group. MH will join the group if it is on a date convenient for him.

TD updated on empowerment and cohesion activity within Nottinghamshire Police. Their strategy on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights has been refreshed. An equalities standard has been developed which will go live in the autumn. Nottinghamshire Police also want to engage partners in a conference on equality and diversity which will take place in November 2009.

Action: TD to e-mail Framework for a Fairer Future to AB. AB to circulate document to whole group.

RG - the Partnership Council have submitted a joint Expression of Interest with Nottingham Trent University for a two year project on community empowerment, researching the decisions that people want to be involved in. The bid can still be tweaked if anyone in this group wishes to feed into it.

Action: RG to circulate Expression of Interest to rest of group. Group to feedback to RG if want to have an input.

JD - NCC have just been successful in obtaining £5million for a City Centre Youth Project, which will house a range of services. It will provide a safe space for young people and will challenge territorialism. The building needs to be right in the centre of the city. A number of locations have been identified but no final decision has yet been made. Should be open in 18-20 months.

LN - the Engagement Calendar which is now live on the NCC website. All partners can add details of engagement activities to it by giving the details to LN and she will update the website.

HM – have £20,000 from Home Office through CDP which have to spend by in Bestwood and Top Valley by the end of March 09, with diversionary activities for young people as the main theme. Skateboard facility should be finished by the end of June. Want to commission some work (June-Oct) to look at any cohesion issues which come out after the facility opens. The work will be advertised, so it is an open process but ideas on people who could be commissioned to deliver the work can be given to HM. JD would be able to provide a link for this work as team already know lots of the young people in the area.

MG – the Local Area Partnerships have now submitted delivery proposals for local empowerment and cohesion. These will all be considered in the next few weeks. MG is also drawing up a service specification for the strategic project on volunteering, which, once approved, will be run by NCVS. It will need to connect in with LAP and Neighbourhood Management activity.

Action: MG to circulate service specification to group once finalised.

MH – launching equality and diversity interactive DVD next week, aimed at voluntary and community organisations.

Action: MH to bring copies of DVD to next CE&C Working Group, so group members can borrow them if they wish.

Action: AB to send copy of Terms of Reference to JD.

Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 18th May 2009, 2-4pm, Venue TBC