



**COHESION BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 23 JULY 2008**

Present Paul Phillipson, Police (Chairman)
Dr. Khurshid Ahmed, Deen Associates (Guest speaker)
Jawaid Khan, GPP
M Kerry, Breckland
John Place, Go-East
Phil Evans, PCC
Mel Collins, PCC
Mike Lennox, PCC
Adrian Chapman, PCC
Leonie McCarthy, PCC New Link
MJ Ladha, PREC
Cllr Graham Murphy, PCC
Rebecca Stephens, GPP
Hannah Barrett, GPP Minute Taking

ACTION

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Astle, Malcolm Burch and Rev. Charles Taylor (who is joining the Cohesion Board as a new member after Rev. Ian Houghton's departure from the Board).

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Dr. Khurshid Ahmed

Dr Ahmed was invited as a guest speaker at the Cohesion Board meeting and he briefly introduced the work he is conducting in relation to the community consultation session on the subject of a 3-year development action plan to enhance resilience in the community against violent extremism.

Dr. Ahmed sought board members' comments on the subject. Gist of the comments discussed are as below:

- Importance to link with the Neighbourhood investment strategy.
- Linkage with schools is essential.

- Communications Strategy is needed to promote positive message.
- Media training for press officers is needed.
- Availability of DCLG tool kit for the Media teams.
- Linkage with prisons and after-care provisions important.
- Need to link with needs of supplementary schools.

Dr. Ahmed undertook to attend the September meeting of the Cohesion Board to present bullet points of the outcome of the consultation and his proposals for way forward.

JP to forward copy of toolkit to ML.

JP

4. Matters arising

Ethnic monitoring

The Board discussed that there were gaps in the current process of collating ethnic monitoring data by different Partner organisations and a clearer commitment from all Partners was needed so relevant data can be compared with and improvements in service delivery planned. The Children and Young People Service model was mentioned to be a good option to consider. The role of working through the performance hub was also discussed.

MJ will re-circulate the paperwork which identifies gaps in the present provisions on ethnic monitoring so this subject can be taken further at the next board meeting.

MJ

The subject of Ethnic monitoring data has also been included as part of the Cohesion Board Action Plan 2008-09.

CCTV and taxis

The Board discussed that whilst there was general agreement for taxis to be provided with CCTVs, the question remained as to who will shoulder the cost. Option for making such provision as a licensing condition and previous offer to taxi drivers for installation of CCTVs were discussed. Other areas of concern including unlicensed cabs and need for logo for all private hire cars were also discussed.

JK

It was agreed that this subject was to be taken to the Tension Monitoring Meeting (JK) and action plan to be brought back to the next Cohesion Board meeting in September.

Refugee week

The Board discussed the evaluation report on the last Refugee Week. Chairman praised the report and welcomed its recommendations.

LM

The Board endorsed funding support of 1000 pounds for the 2009 Refugee Week to

allow earlier planning of activities and engagement with local schools so the subject can be included as part of the curriculum.

YJB bid update

YJB bid has been made and reply is awaited.

New arrival children and non-availability of school places

This item was moved to September meeting agenda.

Prevent Strategy

Draft Prevent Strategy was tabled for discussion.

It was considered to be a good start to link with the national agenda and its emphasis on the role of the local authority in driving this agenda was welcomed.

JK

Other areas which need to be considered for inclusion were stated as follows:

- Police initiative for a sergeant post to cover all schools
- Importance to link with the PCC business plan in preparation
- Linkage with FE and prisons on the PVE agenda

Myth busting

The Board discussed efforts being made to include element of myth busting as part of Week of Action (WOA).

A concerted effort to collate relevant data for myth busting in the next series of WOA in September was agreed. Support from Board members for collation of relevant data was pledged.

The subject of perception in some quarter about migrants taking up a huge portion of housing benefit was discussed.

Cllr GM mentioned that he would bring factual information on the subject for the next meeting.

GM

LM offered to provide course for staff participating in WOA about difference between asylum seekers and migrants, subject to availability of some funding support.

AC agreed to look into the subject and report back.

AC

5. Operational Agenda Operational Report

The operational report for May and June was tabled with the following subject highlighted:

The security situation in the vicinity of the Hindu Temple in Rock Road was discussed.

Community Safety Manager has called for an ad hoc working group with all relevant partners to look into resolving the situation. The subject was also on the agenda of the Tension Monitoring Meeting.

Strategic agenda

6. LAA Block 2 Update.

The update on the refreshed LAA Block 2 Building Community Cohesion Outcome was tabled. Further details were to be added to the skeleton document. This piece of work was to be done in close conjunction with the respective leads for each of the action items and the outcome was also to form part of the Cohesion Board Action Plan 2008-09.

The question of available funding was raised. The Chairman asked for a finance report as to the available fund and its allocation.

Cllr GM suggested that consideration be given for criteria to be set for allocation of the funds.

AC will correspond with Nick Hutchins and bring relevant information to the next meeting.

AC

7. Preventing Extremism

PP commented that there is an LPSA bid to provide further staff to support Orton school and the Police are looking for a Sergeant to oversee all schools police activity.

Any Other Business

8. Millfield and New England Project Update

RS tabled a summary report on the project and highlighted challenges and progress involved.

PE

The subject of concern to neighbours such as sofas and other abandoned goods left in front yards and need to engage with tenants living in suspected houses of multiple occupations were discussed in detail.

It was agreed that efforts were to be made to consider options available to remove abandoned goods under the Wellbeing 2000 Act.

Board members welcomed involvement of Cllr GM a member of the Project Action Group.

GM

The Board agreed that there must be an increased focus and activity in the area. JK to progress with the support of GM.

JK

Date of Next Meeting: 11 September 2pm-4pm, Bourges Room, Town Hall

