

City of Derby Community Cohesion Strategy July 2007

Welcome to the first Community Cohesion Strategy for Derby

A plan designed to deliver strong, sustainable community relations across the City

Community Cohesion in Derby

The City of Derby has a Community Strategy driving Derby's 2020 vision; the vision makes clear the type of city Derby aspires to be. It states:

"People of all ages and from all walks of life will feel they belong to Derby and that Derby offers them everything they need"

This Cohesion Strategy will be one way of ensuring that the 2020 vision becomes a reality for the people of Derby.

Introduction

Derby is a city of more than 233, 000 people. It is a compact city with a good quality of life. Jobs are in good supply, there is a range of affordable housing, and the city offers excellent access to green space and the countryside. The city centre is subject to a major transition and it is anticipated that some £1billion will be invested there in the next ten years. In the neighbourhoods, service providers are establishing innovative ways of involving local communities in the delivery of services. Derby has an excellent reputation, its communities generally get on well, partners are genuinely committed to working together. It is a city well placed to deliver the cohesion agenda. Strong community relations are a priority.

Creating cohesive communities is now a major policy theme for both national and regional Government. There exists at national level an increasing feeling, and fear, that communities and cultures are in danger of becoming increasingly divided. Research shows many people have negative thoughts about the current cultural mix, and that they may perceive it as a threat. However the evidence shows many of these perceptions are misplaced. Communities can gain great benefits by creating harmony within. These benefits have been found across the spectrum, education, employment, safety and culture. Improving social inclusion can, and will, bring positive outcomes, but work is needed to achieve that aim.

Improving community cohesion in the city will undoubtedly play a significant part in building and maintaining the reputation of Derby. That reputation will itself impact on the economic viability of the City, together with its ability to attract investment, tourism and regeneration funding. Furthermore creating cohesive communities will impact greatly on the feeling of wellbeing and self-confidence in and around the City. Confident citizens are more likely to participate fully in the life of the City and its neighbourhoods.

Derby's long-term prospects are therefore linked to the successful implementation of this Strategy. Derby has a successful past, it aims to build a successful future, and this Cohesion Strategy will help deliver that success.

Developing the Cohesion Strategy

The Research

As a first step to developing a Cohesion Strategy for Derby, the City's Community Safety Partnership commissioned research base lining the current position.

The research asked three key questions:

- What is the most likely cause of cohesion breakdown in the City of Derby?
- What are the existing barriers to cohesion in the City of Derby?
- What action may make a 'difference'?

Over sixty organisations and individuals were interviewed, and the findings demonstrated that many people feel Derby has created a 'relaxed' and 'safe' atmosphere for itself; and it is a "good place to be". In addition, there exists a real willingness from all partners to work together to build further on this strong position. Supporting this, the City has a Community Strategy and a Local Area Agreement that both position cohesion at their heart.

However the research did find some concerns.

Answering the first two key questions exposes most likely risks for the City.

- Most likely causes of breakdown

Local people identified the most likely cause of community tension as arising from a local, trivial incident, triggered by the spread of a rumour or a spontaneous event based on some form of territorial dispute. Either way, 'myths' and 'rumours' create the potential for breakdown.

- Existing barriers to cohesion

Respondents quote varying issues but the most common barriers are perceived to be centred around leadership, funding, poor response to incidents, language difficulties, social and economic equalities and confusion over access to support mechanisms. Respondents also felt people needed to 'mix' more, spending more time together, cross cultural and cross community. Finally, there exists a general feeling that people make judgements based on 'rumour' and 'myth' rather than reality.

The report based on the research was prepared for consultation in January 2007. Further consultation based on the report involved more than 150 groups citywide and culminated in an 'event' held in March. Feedback from the research, the consultation event and the broader document circulation has informed the final strategy.

Additionally the Institute of Cohesion have undertaken research with Derby's Muslim community and this has also been taken into account.

Derby Community Cohesion Strategy

Vision and aim

Bringing together the findings from the research and the consultation created an understanding that the Strategy needs to be built upon a vision for the future. That vision is agreed to be:

“A city where people live together and respect each other”

The overall aim of the community cohesion strategy is to create communities where

- There is a clearly defined and widely **shared** sense of the contribution of different individuals and different communities to a **future vision** for a neighbourhood, city, region or country;
- There is a strong sense of an individual's **rights and responsibilities** when living in a particular place – people know what everyone expects of them and what they can expect in turn;
- Those from different backgrounds have **similar life opportunities**, access to services and treatment;
- There is a **strong sense of trust** in institutions locally to act fairly in arbitrating between different interests and for their role and justifications to be subject to public scrutiny;
- There is a strong recognition of the contribution of both those who have newly arrived and those who already have deep attachments to a particular place, with a **focus on what they have in common**
- There are **strong and positive relationships** between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and other institutions within neighbourhoods.

Objectives

The vision and aim will be achieved through the implementation of eight key objectives, which are

1. The establishment of strong and effective leadership of community cohesion at city and community level.
2. Empowerment of local communities through the implementation of neighbourhood engagement and participation structures.
3. The development of a sense of belonging and shared values across the city.
4. Implementation of a prevention strategy that avoids tomorrow's problems, and particularly targeted at young people.

5. Effective monitoring and assessment of community tensions through the use of high quality data and information.
6. Visible and effective work to tackle inequalities across partnership agencies.
7. The implementation of actions that prevent the growth of extremism within communities.
8. Effective interfaith work.

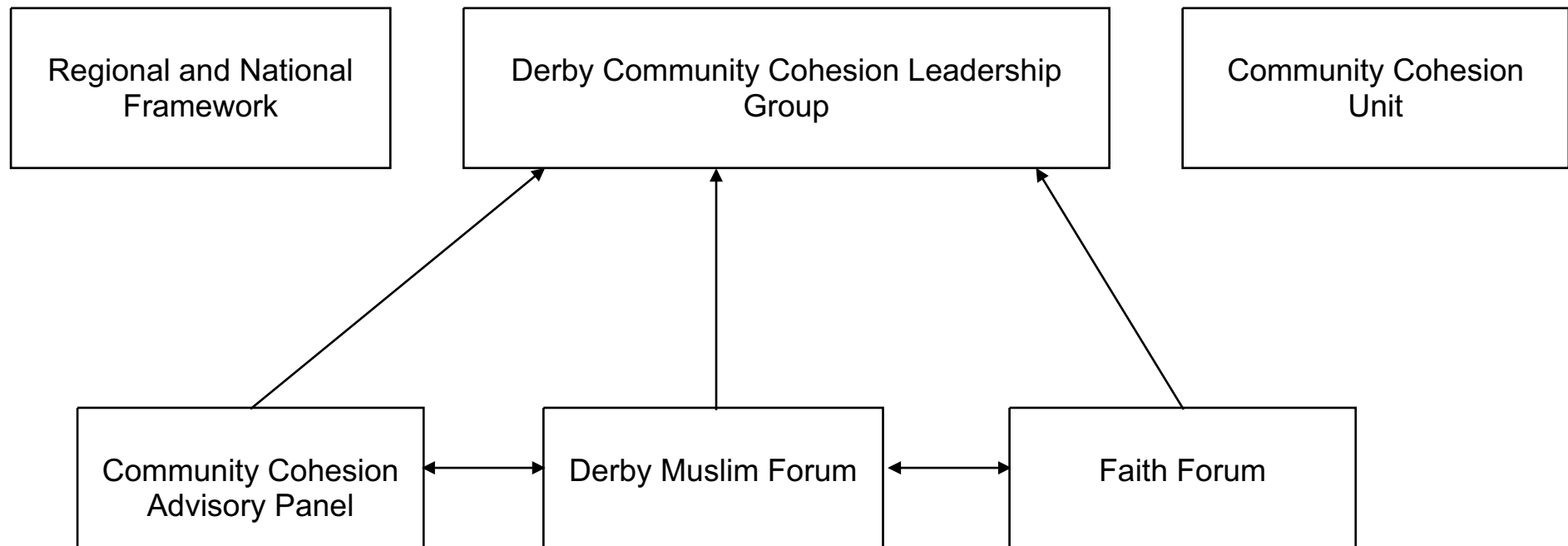
Implementing the Strategy

The strategy will be driven by the Community Cohesion Leadership Group and will be adopted by Derby City Partnership Board.

An action plan to support each objective will be developed on a yearly basis, with six-monthly reviews. The action plan will be managed by the Director of Derby Community safety Partnership.

Creating cohesion is a challenging task. Success can only be achieved with the support and willing participation of all the people and organisations within the City. Everyone must all play their part.

STRUCTURE WITHIN DCP TO DELIVER COHESION AND PREVENT EXTREMISM IN DERBY



The Community Cohesion Action plan 2007/8

The establishment of strong and effective leadership of community cohesion at city and community level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Leadership Group providing strategic vision and direction for cohesion in the City of Derby • Establish a Community Cohesion Panel to inform to the Leadership Group and advise on ad-hoc issues • Establish a 'Derby Muslim Forum' to provide 'One Voice – One Message' approach within Derby's Muslim community • Establish a 'multi-agency' Cohesion Team to deliver the vision and strategy • Work with Government Office East Midlands to enhance the skill set of 'leaders' in the City of Derby
Empowerment of local communities through the implementation of neighbourhood engagement and participation structures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of the neighbourhood agenda ensuring cohesion is central to developments
The development of a sense of belonging and shared values across the city
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a 'Respect for Derby, Pride in your Neighbourhood' programme for the city of Derby • Promote a city-wide 'Myth Busting Campaign • Explore the feasibility of establishing 'One Stop Shop' for city newcomers
Implementation of a prevention strategy that avoids tomorrow's problems, and particularly targeted at young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Derby College, University and schools to consider ways of establishing cohesion as a city-wide priority across educational establishments • Examine youth programmes in the city to enable effective targeting of disaffected groups
Effective monitoring and assessment of community tensions through the use of high quality data and information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of partnership cohesion unit • Revise and implement new community tensions protocol
Visible and effective work to tackle inequalities across partnership agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and agree process of inequalities reporting within DCP structures
The implementation of actions that prevent the growth of extremism within communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Derby Muslim Forum and support forum in developing and implementing a preventing extremism action plan
Effective interfaith work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Faith Forum and ensure faith leadership is central to strategy and practice development