

## Community Cohesion

### 1. Introduction

Cohesion is what is required to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A cohesive and integrated community is based upon three foundations:

- People from different backgrounds having similar opportunities;
- People knowing their rights and responsibilities; and
- People trusting one another and trusting local institutions act fairly.

In addition, community cohesion is solidified through three ways of living together:

- A shared future vision and sense of belonging;
- A focus on what new and existing communities have in common, alongside a recognition of the value of diversity; and
- Strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.

### 2. The Local Picture

Cohesion has been measured by the question 'To what extent do you agree or disagree that the local area is a place where people get on well together?' in the [Place Survey](#) (2008). In Hounslow, 73.2% of people agreed with this statement.

Locally, this question was asked by the Borough, along with two others, in the 2010 Hounslow Residents' Panel [tracker survey](#). The results of these questions in the survey are summarised below.

#### 2.1 *People get on well together*

In 2009, two thirds of panel members (67%) agreed that their local area is a place where people get on well together, a similar proportion to the years prior to the survey.

Panel members from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BaME) group are significantly more likely than other ethnic minority groups to disagree with this statement (37%). People were more likely to disagree if they lived in the West (29%), Central Hounslow (27%) and Heston and Cranford (22%). Panel members in Chiswick are significantly more likely to agree (83% do) as are those from White backgrounds.

#### 2.2 *Respect for others*

The majority of panel members (63%) in 2010 stated that their local area is a place where people are respected, a significant increase since 2009 (55%). ([Figure 3](#)) One in four panel members disagreed that this is the case locally, but this is a fewer proportion compared with both 2009 and 2008.

Panel members in West and Central Hounslow are significantly more likely than those elsewhere to disagree that Hounslow is a place where people are respected (37% and 31% respectively). Panel members in Chiswick are significantly more likely to agree with this statement (85%).



### 2.3 Cultural integration

Approximately 62% of Hounslow panel members surveyed felt that their local area is a place where people mix with other people from different backgrounds, a year-on-year increase since 2008. ([Figure 4](#))

Panel members from a BaME group are significantly more likely than White panel members to disagree with this statement (42% compared with 24%). Males, respondents without disabilities and those residing in Chiswick were significantly more likely to agree that people mix with others from different backgrounds in Hounslow (62%, 59% and 71%, respectively).

## 3. Strategic Leadership and Collaboration

The Stronger United Communities group brings together key partners across the Borough to set the strategic direction of cohesion. The Community Partnerships Unit leads on the delivery of this work.

Key successes include:

- Beacon status awarded and learning disseminated;
- Fifteen groups funded through Community Cohesion grant scheme, six through Strengthening Communities Fund and two organisations delivering work to tackle far right extremism in the Borough;
- Launch of Somali research report to over 60 Somali community leaders at Darussalam mosque, followed by a partnership programme of engagement;
- Series of high profile events – International Women’s Day (attended by 1,200 women); Feltham Arts Youth Festival (500 people), Hounslow Rotary Youth Speaks event (150 young people and parents);
- Roll out of Channel training for Community Services staff: Learning Disabilities Managers Team and Occupational Therapists;
- Delivery of training on extremism delivered to local schools and youth settings; and
- St George’s Day and the Royal Wedding: 17 groups funded across the Borough, engaging 2,500 residents.

## 4. Priorities

Key priorities in community cohesion for 2011/12 are to:

- Allocate resources to support young people at risk of radicalisation and extremism, enabling further promotion and development of community cohesion, and assistance in engagement with socially excluded communities;
- Ensure sufficient resources are in place to support newly arrived communities, and those settled in Hounslow, to further encourage integration, citizenship and English language acquisition;
- Continue to collate research on the needs and impacts of particular communities which can be utilised to target resources across all stakeholders; and
- Create opportunities and promote good relations for people from different communities to connect, and meet openly and honestly to discuss issues and concerns that affect them.



## 5. Summary of Need

The following table summarises the needs in Community Cohesion in the London Borough of Hounslow.

<b>SUMMARY OF NEED: CHECKLIST</b>	
Is need increasing over time?	<b>Yes</b>
Is need greater than the London average?	<b>N/A</b>
Is there qualitative intelligence indicating that need is substantially unmet?	<b>Not avail.</b>
Is there an external inspection or report suggesting need is unmet?	<b>Yes</b>
Are quality indicators worsening over time?	<b>Not avail.</b>
Are quality indicators worse than the London average?	<b>Not avail.</b>
Is there an intervention of proven effectiveness to address the need which is not currently delivered in Hounslow (or not delivered enough)?	<b>No</b>