

COMMUNITY cohesion

IN **YORKSHIRE**
AND **HUMBER**

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GUIDE



Local Government
Yorkshire and
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IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP

Community Cohesion in Yorkshire and Humber

The members of Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) have identified 'community cohesion' as an issue of such importance that it underpins the wellbeing of the region. This statement sets out the region's common community cohesion issues and adopts a common approach to addressing them.

Context and key challenges

The communities that make up the Yorkshire and Humber region are complex. This complex picture is a great strength. However, it is a strength that cannot be taken for granted. Some parts of the region may be affected by tensions and separations between and within communities, which can undermine the strengths that come from diversity and affect the lives of individuals and communities. We must all work together to achieve the integrated and cohesive society that we wish to live in.



The Yorkshire and Humber approach

We believe that the following principles should underpin our approach to achieving cohesive communities:

1. Rights and responsibilities of the individual:

Every individual has a right to be treated fairly and with respect by other individuals and civic authorities. In turn, each individual has a responsibility to treat others fairly and with respect.

2. Listening and developing understanding:

If cohesion is to be achieved, there is a need for a full understanding of the attitudes and concerns of individuals and groups. This means creating safe environments where individuals are able to express themselves freely and listen to each others' views. It is also important that the region's local agencies ensure strong local engagement.

3. Attention to 'felt fairness' across communities:

If the tensions and resentment between some communities in the region are to be reduced, there is a need to address the gaps in housing, health, education, employment prospects, the environment experienced by different communities and inabilities to access quality public services.

4. Collective responsibility and collaborative responses:

As democratically elected bodies, the region's local authorities are responsible for providing local leadership in this area. However, they can only achieve this by collaborating with the police, community and voluntary sector, faith organisations and other agencies.

Strands of action

The balance of integration and cohesion issues is different in each locality, so the balance of actions will be determined locally. The following areas of action are likely to feature in some combination, and success is unlikely if they are pursued in isolation from one another:

- Providing strong community leadership
- Working intensively in communities
- Embedding neighbourhood policing and introducing neighbourhood management
- Taking action to reduce inequalities
- Responding to unfairness, real or perceived, in the way in which mainstream public services and external funding are allocated to different communities.
- Creating an environment where individuals and communities can speak freely about their concerns and are listened to with respect.
- Working with young people making transitions to adult life.
- We recognise the linkages between these strands of action and the need to build communities that are resilient to violent extremism.

Assessing progress

LGYH will ensure that those key principles which have been identified in this statement are reflected in, and underpin, the regional stronger communities framework which is currently being developed to ensure an integrated approach to all activity designed to support the delivery of this agenda. LGYH will ensure that those same principles are evident within those individual strategies which will collectively deliver this programme of activity.

For the full version of this statement, please visit: <http://www.lgyh.gov.uk/> or contact LGYH on 01924 331 631.



Local Government
Yorkshire and
Humber



Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
18 King Street, Wakefield, WF1 2SQ
Tel: 01924 331631
Fax: 01924 331559
email: mail@lgyh.gov.uk
www.lgyh.gov.uk