

What are the key challenges to building community cohesion?

Community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to help different groups of people get on well together. This includes integration which is the way in which new and existing residents adapt to each other and their local area. Community cohesion means different things to different people but generally includes a community vision and a sense of belonging for all people.

Introduction:

The things that increase cohesion include:

- People willing to help others
- Trust and satisfaction with local services
- People working on common problems
- People feel they can influence local decisions
- An increase in the number of friends from different groups

Points of discussion:

Key themes in dialogue:

- **Poverty:** under played but at the root of many issues
- **Transient populations:** Constant flow of new communities makes integration harder
- **Isolation:** lack of personal networks. People living fragmented lives with few opportunities to come together
- **Lack of skills and capacity in new groups:** new communities struggle to provide advocacy and support functions
- **Lack of trust in the police:** people have negative experiences of police brutality and corruption in homelands
- **Local service provision:** marginalises certain groups
- **Religious extremism:** vulnerable groups more prone to being influenced "radicalised"
- **Importance of communication**

Good practice:

What works in Hyson Green:

- The positive aspects of other things going on in the area
- Local projects with links to other projects and communities
- Importance of a positive attitude to difference and new communities
- Able to promote our local services to new people

Next steps:

Going forward:

- Need more partnership meetings opportunities to come together
- A police introduction programme for newly arrived communities
- More effective partnership working
- Assistance with the capacity of new groups

