

Future Scenarios Event 20th September 2016

Cohesion Workshop

Three workshop sessions were held to explore data from the Local Government Data Unit – Wales (August 2016) “Understanding local well-being Summary assessment for the Gwent region” to inform Future Generations Well-being Assessments, with the following pointers emerging from the group discussion based around questions posed on the data:

Question 1

What do you see are currently the top 3 issues for Caerphilly County Borough for this goal? The current picture and what experts, data and public are saying are telling us.

For ease of reference only, the feedback from Question 1 and 3 have been categories into *different cohesion themes*; **social, crime and disorder, economic and environmental.**

Social Cohesion

- Community belonging – building sense of self and belonging (In some areas people live there 20 years and still classed as an outsider)
- Continue to promote healthier lifestyles
- People will feel connected to their community/other people by having a voice and feeling someone listens and acts
- An integrated health system, accessible to all
- Prevent exclusion of vulnerable individuals
- Breaking down the ‘ghetto’ mentalities, ensuring communities get on well together
- Improve social acceptance
- Support vulnerable communities (those with Protected characteristics, BME communities)
- Lack of aspiration to improve communities
- Sense Isolation
- Welsh tribal communities - people will sometimes remain in an area even if no employment opportunities etc.
- Inter-generational conflict - barriers to change
- Isolation for young immigrants
- Age respect
- Changing perceptions/intolerance, vulnerable groups
- Pride v Belonging
- A lack of a community identify, or an identity based on historic industries that is not inclusive to new comers and prevent people moving forward.

- Who is responsible for making a community a place where people want to live
- Lack of trust - don't communicate with neighbours, aspiration of people, people never travelled out of their area
- threat of extremism
- lack of education and awareness - police and council spend a lot of time dealing with ASB, need other agencies to work on issues more collaboration
- Lack of community confidence - need to have their trust to listen to them and they feel comfortable to come to us with intelligence e.g. Prevent
- Community confidence
- Encouraging and supporting community groups to manage some of their local areas
- Intergenerational cohesions
- Poverty, immigration, refugees, cultural differences
- Trust/lack of - not knowing your neighbours, their background
- Access to leisure facilities, community groups, intergenerational working, diversion activities, substance misuse project, garden
- Equality and diversity education (extremism/ social isolation)
- Managing community tensions
- A disconnect between young people and communities
- Bringing communities together

Crime and Disorder Cohesion

- Drug/alcohol dependencies in communities
- Disconnect with young people in communities - feeds fear of crime and perceived ASB
- Crime & ASB – support to modify behaviour – not punitive and labelling
- Fear of crime
- Reduce crime, racism, pigeon holing of parts of community – promote self-worth
- Creating awareness on hate crime. Dealing with intolerance, creating safer communities
- Incidents linked to anti-social behaviour need to be addressed targeting, diversionary interventions aimed at working with children/Young People.
- Safer communities through reduced fires, both accidental and deliberate
- Reduction in fire deaths and the impact this has on families and communities
- Reduction in road traffic collisions (RTC's) which will have an impact on reducing injuries and fatalities. These have a huge impact on services such as Health, Police, and Probation etc.
- Isolated people in the community if not working need activities to bring them together
- Safe and secure neighbourhoods

Economic Cohesion

- Education (a need to address the aspirations and life goals of local people)
- Employment creation
- Training and skills development
- Excellent education provision suitable for individuals with ranging educational abilities and from all backgrounds
- Create a culture of tolerance tackling prejudices
- Good employment opportunities that are available to people with a wide range of physical and mental health abilities and all ages

Environmental Cohesion

- Open and welcoming communities – to all
- links to local environment so that people have access to local green spaces for recreation activities
- Zero tolerance, litter, dog fouling (release of services)

Question 2

Do you agree? If not what's missing

- Community consultation has raised more police on the streets; however statistics show cybercrime on the rise and other crimes which more police on street would have no impact on.
- Intergenerational work – work in schools with young people to share experience
- Priority to invest in communities – growth of communities build on strengths already there (can we add to the cohesion section) not just tackle the problems
- Restorative approaches in schools in Caerphilly to reduce ASB/crime educate people
- Tackle intolerance – education/training – valuing diversity – awareness sessions in schools to tackle long held family beliefs
- Also need to address the family beliefs. The best way to do this would be through Community Champions – professionals/residents who work/live in the communities – already respected in the communities – give them resources to do it. Could be people in local cafes, benefits offices etc.
- Prevent. Some people perceive this issue of social isolation and radicalisation isn't a problem in Caerphilly. There is a need to raise awareness that its everyone's issue
- Use the community to help, community champions are key, someone who is respected in the community to help support and nurture cohesion.
- Need to find avenues for people to have their say

- Need education to break down the barriers between community, a focus of global citizenship.

Question 3

Do you think the 3 top issues you have identified will still be the same 3 issues in 2040? If not what do you think will be the issues then?

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Social Cohesion

- Changing in social demographics i.e. older population, this could result in a strain on services
- Opportunities to work with our community leaders/community champions to change the narrative (from negative to positive)
- Social Isolation. People could become more isolated in future (closing libraries, doing more on-line, shopping etc.) and young people are isolating themselves already.
- By supporting Community Champions and supporting a community voice that's listened to and acted upon
- Promotion of multi-cultural and inter-generational tolerance to avoid intolerance and tensions
- Promote respect and belonging for all
- Support community champions to access and engage with communities via education, share values, inclusivity
- Community spirit – promotion of a sense of belonging to a wider group and society
- Strengthen, invest and support communities to be cohesive/build on strengths
- Break down Intolerances - schools need to do more in schools
- Rebuild the pride in communities

Crime and Disorder Cohesion

- Cyber-crime
- Maintain safety culture – education – partners access in schools
- Address the causes of crime and ASB

Economic Cohesion

- Encourage people to redefine community
- Start by opening windows of opportunities in schools and local businesses
- Need opportunities to change views/aspirations/life skills/employment

Environmental Cohesion

- Pollution
- Climate change
- Pressure on natural resources – careful management to ensure sustainable – protection and access to green spaces
- less people using paths so difficult to get around as they are not being maintained
- Loneliness. Need to ensure there are reasons to go out...the more dependent we are on technology less we need to go out