

Bringing People Together

Community Cohesion in Derbyshire

Guidance Note for

Staff working in educational establishments

Who is this guidance for?

People who work in education or training including teachers, support staff, youth workers, college staff and those with educational responsibilities as part of their work.



What is community cohesion?

Community cohesion is the glue which binds communities together.

This is strengthened when people get on well together, respect each other and feel they can influence decisions in their area. It can be weakened when people feel that they do not enjoy the same life opportunities as others.

What does this mean in Derbyshire?

In Derbyshire, a wide range of factors affect cohesion. These include ethnicity, social and economic background, housing, the length of time people have lived in an area, age, nationality, the availability of local services and levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. We want to build communities where:

- There is a shared vision for the future and a sense of belonging
- Young and older people get on well together and people respect each other
- People from different backgrounds, particularly those who are under represented have a voice and access to the same life opportunities, employment and services
- The gap between “the haves” and “the have nots” is reduced by tackling inequality
- People from new communities are welcomed and are able to settle and integrate.

Why is community cohesion important?

Communities where people work together are stronger communities. Cohesion has many knock on effects such as helping people to feel a sense of belonging and improving satisfaction with an area as a place to live. Although every area is different, cohesion relates closely to many other priorities such as reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and improving education and training.

Why are you important?

You are able to play a role in shaping and informing young people about issues of tolerance and accepting differences in the community. You provide opportunities to promote strong relationships between people from different faiths and backgrounds and are able to foster community relations, both within your organisation and in the wider community.

You can help to make communities in Derbyshire more cohesive by:

- Helping young people to understand others, promoting discussion and debate about common values and diversity. Providing teaching and curriculum that supports high standards of attainment, promotes common values, and builds young peoples' understanding of the diversity that surrounds them. This could be done through fieldwork, visits and meetings with members of different communities.
- Using admission and access arrangements that promote community cohesion and social equity and having effective approaches in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment.
- Using partnership arrangements to share good practice and offering the opportunity to meet and learn from other young people from different backgrounds. Building links into existing schemes of work grounded in the curriculum with young people working together on a joint project or activity.
- Enhancing provision of extended services and community use of facilities for activities that take place out of normal hours, including adult and family learning, and sharing use of facilities to provide a means for pupils to interact.
- Engaging with parents and the wider community through coffee mornings, curriculum evenings, parent and child courses, information and communications technology, and English classes for speakers of other languages.
- Working with community representatives, for example through mentoring schemes or bringing in community representatives to work with young people. Providing volunteering opportunities which enable young people to make a positive contribution to their local communities.
- Ensuring teachers and youth leaders have access to the correct facts. The people most trusted to tell the truth are public facing officials.
- Reporting problems and encouraging members of your community to do the same. If you see or hear anything worrying in your neighbourhood call 0345 123 3333 and report it to Keystone (the Derbyshire operation to combat violent extremism).

For more information on community cohesion in Derbyshire visit
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/bringingpeopletogether

☎ 01629 538254

✉ policy@derbyshire.gov.uk

On the above website you'll find:

- 'Bringing People Together' – Derbyshire's Community Cohesion Strategy
- A 'Bringing People Together' Action Plan outlining current activities
- Key contact details and information about who is leading this work
- Other guidance notes and resources to help you understand cohesion
- More ideas about how you can help to build cohesion

