Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration

Executive Summary

• The aim of the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration (CSI) is to bring about real changes for people and places across our society. To build a strong community where everyone, regardless of race, colour, religious or political opinion, age, gender, disability or sexual orientation can live, work and socialise in a context of fairness, equality, rights, responsibilities and respect.

• The draft document is currently out for consultation until 29\textsuperscript{th} October 2010.

Key Themes

• Some of the key themes of CSI are:
  • Developing shared space
  • Crises intervention
  • Young people
  • Interfaces
  • Reducing segregation
  • Expression of cultural identity
  • Racial equality
  • Hate crime
  • Secure communities

Aims and Objectives

• The draft document sets out the main aims under a number of key headings:

People and Places

• Public spaces and town centres should be safe, shared and welcoming to the whole community;

• Unnecessary duplication of services should be targeted through the enhanced delivery of shared services on the basis of objective need.
Empowering the Next Generation

- Develop a longer term strategic approach to helping marginalised young people;
- Supporting young people by facilitating and empowering youth groups to work together on civic responsibility projects;
- Focusing on education and promoting greater understanding of shared values;
- Establishing multi-agency partnerships between indigenous and minority ethnic and migrant worker communities to address the specific needs of the young people in those populations.

Respecting Cultures

- Working with and supporting the local community to resolve contentious cultural issues;
- Promoting greater understanding of cultural diversity and expressions of cultural identity;
- Encouraging greater engagement with, and understanding of, cultural diversity and intercultural relations;
- Working to eliminate attacks on cultural, sporting and other symbolic property and monuments; and
- Promoting cultural exchanges, joint events and tourism initiatives.

A Secure Community

- Encouraging community events which reflect cultural diversity and are open, welcoming and inclusive to all;
- Ensuring that all responsible agencies continue to provide a high level of community safety delivered within a rights based framework and an overarching ethos of mutual respect;
- Continuing to promote initiatives based on the principle of mutual respect, which reflect acceptance of cultural diversity and the ways in which it is expressed;
- Building community support networks across community, cultural and minority ethnic groups;
• Building capacity of the local and minority ethnic communities to support people who have experienced hate crime.

A Cohesive Community

• Zero tolerance for crimes motivated by prejudice and all forms of hate crime, whilst actively promoting rights and respect;

• Promoting intercultural work through the Minority Ethnic Development Fund;

• Building an inclusive community open to all, regardless of their background;

• Promoting greater understanding between established sections of the community and new arrivals;

• Encouraging greater understanding of new cultures and new sections of the community;

• Developing and supporting workplace initiatives to promote respect and understanding of cultural diversity.

Supporting Local Communities

• Continue to support Councils' delivery of Good Relations programmes and funding;

• Ensure that the local community is integral to the Good Relations decision making and implementation process; and

• Nurturing leadership at a local level and empowering the local community to identify solutions to local issues.

Looking Outward

• Identifying key exemplar projects which have proven track records of success in promoting good relations;

• Sharing of relevant research and experiences on a North/South, East/West, European and international basis;

• Mutual promotion of cultural diversity and encouraging better social networks on North/South, East/West, European and international levels.
Mechanisms for the Co-ordination of the actions to implement CSI

- A Ministerial Panel chaired by OFMDFM Ministers, key statutory and community partners will be established. Community partners will be Ministerially appointed and will include representatives from a range of community organisations and the Racial Equality Forum;

- A Senior Officials Steering Group which will be tasked with coordinating the cross-departmental alignment of activities and allocation of resources;

- An Advisory Panel of practitioners and experts will provide advice to Government. The document outlines a range of options for the delivery of funding and advice to Government on good relations policy to support the implementation of CSI.

- A Funders Group that will advise the Ministerial Panel on good relations funding issues and seek to improve the targeting and co-ordination of funding from many different sources.

Delivery of Funding

- The Programme seeks to establish a framework within which available resources can be more effectively managed and integrated to target the funding strategically, avoid duplication, ensure complementarity, and maximise the impact on the ground.

- The Programme will enhance the coordination of Government activity and provide for better working of funding in partnership with the community and voluntary sector.

- In the development of funding options for the delivery of programmes 3 levels of funding have been identified – through District Councils, thematic and targeted / emergency.