



Diversity

Co-operation

Multi-culturalism

Interaction

Cohesion and Resilience

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Content of the presentation

- Context of Cohesion
- Monitoring Community Tensions
- Building Cohesive Communities
- Challenges and opportunities
- Two tales of a city



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Context

- In 1965 75m people lived outside the home country, now 180m
- 4.6m BME people in the UK in 2001 (8%), plus 1m since
- Over 300 languages in London schools; 100+ in other cities
- Settlement pattern little changed in 40 years; debate about 'white flight and 'self segregation'
- Rural areas experiencing new migration from EU



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Context

- 2001 disturbances in Northern cities
- The Cattle Report
- ‘parallel lives’, ‘spatial and social separation’
- ‘conflict over scarce resources’
- Impact of international events
- Ignorance, fear and demonisation
- Since 2002, increased focus on extremism and migration



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Context : a cohesive community is one where –

- There is a common vision and sense of belonging
 - The diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued
 - Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities
 - Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds and circumstances in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods
- an approach based on identifying commonalities rather than emphasising difference, whilst respecting diverse heritages**



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Community Tension

‘Community tension is a state of community dynamics which may potentially lead to disorder or threaten the peace and stability of communities’

- May build up within or between communities
- May develop over a long period and be inflamed by a ‘spark’
- Based on real or perceived events, fears, rumours



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Community Tension

- May be linked to extremist political activity
- Issues or events between different communities
- Population changes
- Racial and religious
- Criminal activity and antisocial behaviour
- National and international events and anniversaries

Not intrinsically bad – some tension is positive in ‘healthy’ communities. Concern is to prevent disorder, damage, insecurity and crime



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Guide to Tension Monitoring

Underpinned by three tenets

- communities themselves are best placed to identify their own priorities and problems, futures and solutions.
- knowing how people are feeling, potential and emerging tensions, - 'early and upstream' - rather than reacting once tensions have become manifest.
- Capturing community information and sharing it between partners, pooling knowledge and expertise to support a predictive and preventative approach



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Practical Tools (1) – Experienced, Evidenced, Potential (EEP)

Experienced

- how communities feel
- what communities think is happening to them
- rumour or perception is as relevant as factual information



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EEP ...

Evidenced

- what has happened or is happening

Potential

- what might happen or has the potential to happen
- predicted or planned activity by the police
- other forthcoming events

Each element assessed and scored to measure the level of tension



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Practical tools (2) – Community Impact Assessments

A logical and systematic way of analysing specific incidents and events, identifying the risks and developing responses

- Information and intelligence
- Who might be affected and how
- Legislation assessment
- Risk assessment
- Intervention options
- Recommended action plan



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CIAs . . .

- Produced nationally, locally and at a neighbourhood level
- Used prior to an event and updated regularly – 2-3 times per day during critical incidents
- Can be used for analysing the potential impact of longer term incidents
- Used to inform all interventions – and develop ‘bespoke’ solutions



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Monitoring Community Tensions

- Experience indicates that the best solutions can be found inside and by communities themselves
- Public agencies need to work alongside individuals groups and organisations to build relationships and trust
- Need to keep a check on the ‘temperature’ even when tensions are perceived to be low
- Promoting positive community relations and well being
- Protecting the reputation of the area

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Building cohesive communities

- Create a common vision and sense of belonging
- Build local leadership capacity – politicians, agencies, communities – including women and young people
- Communications – conversations, mythbusting, media
- Intercultural activities
- Planning mixed communities - housing, schools, community and leisure facilities
- Build ‘bridging’ social capital – interfaith networks



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Building cohesive communities

- Celebrations and events
- Citizenship education – new duty on schools to promote cohesion
- Access to English language classes
- Better understanding communities to promote better engagement



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Challenges & opportunities: cohesion and resilience

- Understanding the local population diversity and the pace of change
- Support for new **and** settled communities to understand and value change
- The capacity, confidence, vision and determination to lead change
- Public agencies and communities in partnership



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Two tales of a city

- Northfields Tenants Association - Leicester
- Braunstone tenancy sustainment - Leicester



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