

Community Cohesion Fund 2011-12

Priorities Identified in Equalities and Diversity Reports

The reports signed off in 2010 have identified a number of priorities for action in Communities First areas. These priorities are wide ranging and the limitations of the Community Cohesion Fund dictate that not all can be tackled via this resource. Therefore, a targeted, strategic approach will need to be adopted/maintained.

Each report contains a useful list of the future challenges, and in many cases, this has been refined to a shorter list of priority action areas. I have carried out a simple exercise to try to incorporate the priorities into a manageable series of headlines.

In summary, if the mapping reports are to form the basis for priority actions in 2011-12, the following issues have been identified:

1. **Alcohol/substance misuse** – There are a number of limited sources of support for this issue, which can be difficult to engage. Community Cohesion Funding could target this area of activity to both raise awareness of the issue and the support available. Projects could also be developed to provide support in specific areas as required.
2. **Mental Health** – Again, there are limited sources of support available, although the HOV proposal should help with this in Rhymney. Community Cohesion Funding could be utilised to provide another support worker, based in CCBC Social Services.
3. **Economic inactivity** linked to Mental Health – Despite a wide range of initiatives and mainstream support, Caerphilly still has wards with amongst the highest levels of economic inactivity in the UK. Therefore, targeted projects, possibly aimed at those with mental health problems and perhaps in specific geographical areas, may be developed using Community Cohesion Funding.
4. **Parenting Classes** in non Flying Start areas – Flying Start currently offers excellent parenting classes, but only covers certain wards in the County Borough and is limited to parents of very young children. Therefore, Community Cohesion Funding could be utilised to deliver classes across the whole of the County Borough, which are not limited by age of children.
5. **Domestic Abuse** – This is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and Community Cohesion Fund could be a source of support to help develop specific initiatives.
6. **Older people / intergenerational work** – Community Focused Schools is charged with this priority, but resources may be limited as it rolls out across the County Borough. This should be the subject of ongoing discussion between local communities/CCBC Education and the Community Cohesion Forum.
7. **Disability** – Mentioned in some reports as a need for capital investment in infrastructure, which cannot be supported by the Community Cohesion Fund. However, there may be a need to offer additional support to victims of hate crime arising from disability. This should be linked to existing resources, offering this kind of support, such as the Safer Wales Police project. It may be desirable to fund local events and ensuring that literature is available.
8. **Workshops to consider priorities** – this was indicated in a number of reports, as a recommendation by Katherine Hughes. If local partnerships want them, these could be funded by Community Cohesion Fund.