

## **North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership**

### **Statement of Intent on Community Cohesion, Social Inclusion and Equality**

#### **Vision**

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership, working with all its partners, strives to promote a cohesive and socially inclusive society for the benefit of all people living, working and visiting the County and to celebrate the diversity within our County.

#### **What we mean by a Cohesive Community**

- There is a clearly defined and widely shared understanding of the contribution of different individuals and different communities to a future vision for our county<sup>1</sup>.
- There is a strong sense of an individual's rights and responsibilities when living in a particular place – people know what everyone expects of them, and what they can expect in turn
- Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities, access to services and treatment
- There is a strong sense of trust in statutory organisations and agencies locally to act fairly in arbitrating between different interests and for their role and justifications to be subject to public scrutiny
- There is a strong recognition of the contribution of both those who have newly arrived and those who already have deep attachments to a particular place, with a focus on what they have in common
- There are strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and other groups and organisations within neighbourhoods

#### **Issues and Principles**

We recognise that other partnerships are already focusing on specific aspects / issues and for that reason we do not intend to duplicate their work (for example Older People's partnerships, Valuing People Partnership etc). We also recognise that discrimination can be multi-faceted, for example a person can be old, black and gay.

North Yorkshire as a community is varied, with diverse and scattered settlements, which can leave some people feeling isolated. Communities change over time, but now comprise new arrivals from Eastern Europe, long established ethnic minority communities, travellers and gypsies, gay and lesbian people, disabled people, people of different faiths and in all walks of life and at all times of life.

Areas of work where we have a common interest include employment (linking migrant workers to professional positions in recognition of their skills), building contacts with both existing BME people and new arrivals, developing information and advice, gathering data and information issues, and considering housing, health, crime issues.

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<sup>1</sup> This is expressed within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

We will take a solution-based approach and will be flexible so that, in future, if the issues change we are able to respond quickly to the changes.

## **Membership**

The membership of the Task Group will encompass all those agencies who can have a positive input to the work; including Public, Private, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector and community representatives<sup>2</sup>.

## **Scope of the group**

- Maintain strong links to NYSP to assist with the mainstreaming of equalities within the formulation and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Facilitate the sharing of information, experience, intelligence and best practice on promoting social inclusion and tackling discrimination
- Facilitate and promote joint working to address community cohesion and social inclusion issues

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<sup>2</sup> organisations that are currently missing include Job Centre Plus, the Benefits Agency, skills delivery organisations and others - this will need to be addressed