

Goal/Aim: To promote shared values among people of all backgrounds through sustainable social integration and meaningful civic participation

Objectives: (i) To provide a 6-month social mixing programme to 10 families at each CCO (60 families in total) who are from different faith communities and ethnic groups.
 (ii) To provide 2 fun/social activities and 2 community belonging opportunities, within an 8-week period, to bring families together and to learn about the local community and heritage (4 per CCO = 24 total)
 (iii) To provide 2 cultural awareness learning opportunities over 8 weeks to learn about other's differences (2 per CCO = 12 total)
 (iv) To complete 1 Social Action Project, within a 6-week period, in the local community developed and delivered by participants (1 per CCO = 6 total)

Outcomes: (i) Promote a shared set of British Values that champions tolerance, freedom, democracy between and within faith communities and no faith communities and between ethnic groups
 (ii) Develop more integrated communities with practical skills, knowledge confidence and network to positively participate in local governance structures and broader civil society.

CONTEXT

As stated in the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, there are a large number of communities divided by race, faith or socio-economic lines. Hate crime has increased in the North West where over 12,500 reported hate crimes occurred in a single year – the second highest region after London. Research indicates that hate crime is more harmful to victims and communities than other types of offending due to the emotional trauma caused. A lack of education or understanding, transference of prejudice through family generations and feelings of socioeconomic threat have been listed as causes of hate crime. The figures alongside the reasons for hate crimes demonstrate the need for educational provision across multiple generations to increase understanding and acceptance, reduce levels of prejudice and bring communities together, which in turn should reduce the desire to commit faith, race and hate crimes, contributing to a reduction in hate crime activity. Research in addressing hate offending is clear that implementing approaches to reduce non-criminal prejudice and increase diversity awareness can have positive long-term effects on hate crime activity; therefore, our project intends to work with both adults and youths to build social cohesion, increase social trust as well as increase feelings of community belonging whilst promoting social contact in an effort to reduce social divides amongst race, faith and socio-economic groups.

