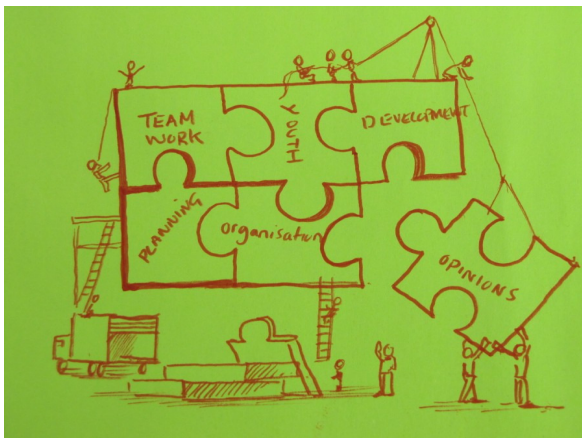
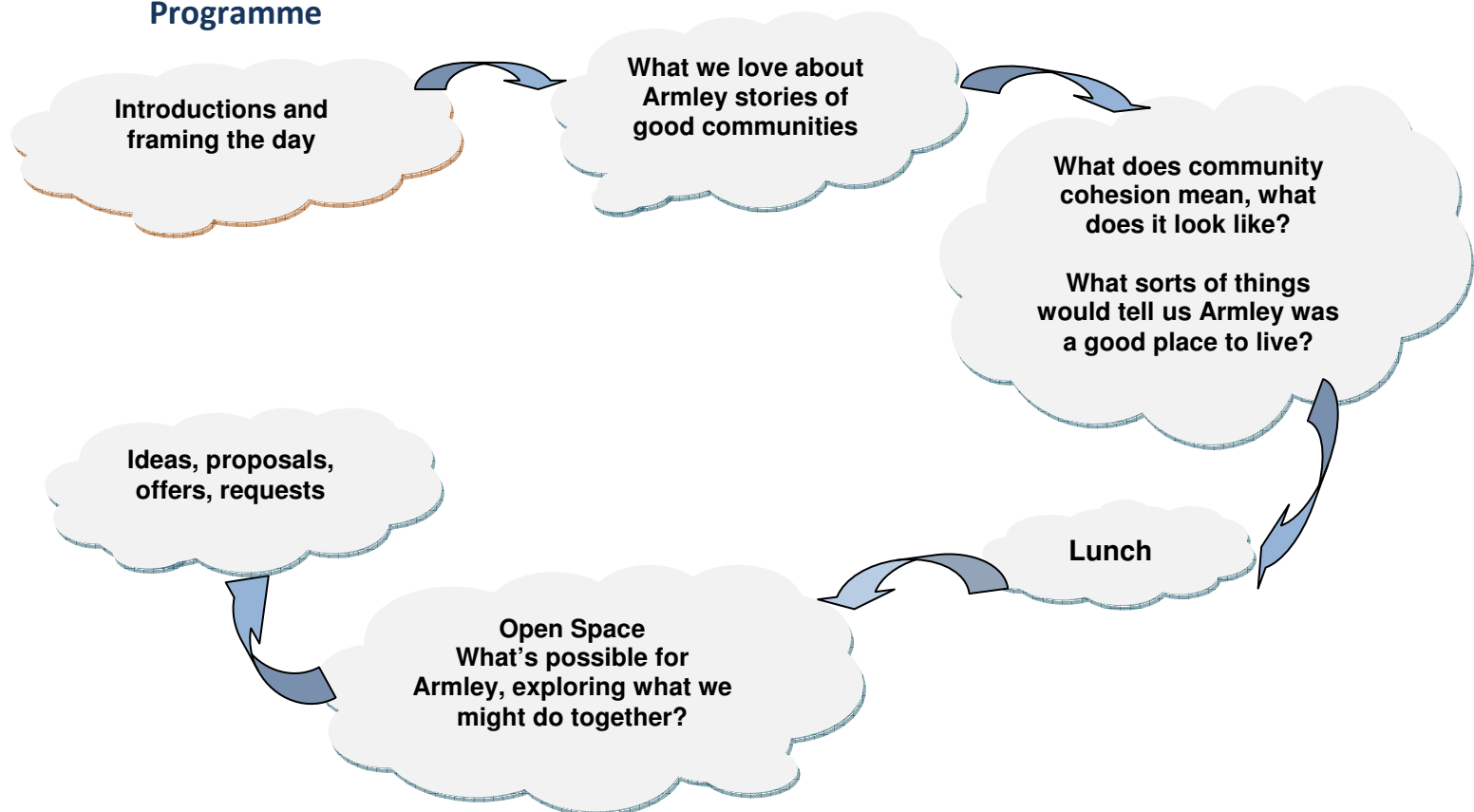


# BRINGING ARMLEY TOGETHER

Armley 9 March 2010



## Programme



## Welcome & Framing



Alison Pickering welcomed everybody and explained that this event had been jointly organised by the West North West Area Management Team and the Equality Team both part of Leeds City Council and Together for Peace. She explained that the Area Management Team was trying to build better community relations, and to better understand how to measure and improve cohesion locally. So far the main focus for the work had been on the Wythers, where a local survey

and some research had been carried out. This was helping to inform what sort of local interventions would be most useful. These will be delivered through the Wythers Improvement Group to enable local ownership. *“The objective of today is to do some myth busting and capacity building with front line members of staff about what cohesion means to us. How can we help build cohesive communities; have more networking, and build better relationships? Can we find out who is doing what and together create a ‘Team Armley’ feeling?”*

Gill Hunter, Area Community Safety Coordinator for West Leeds explained that although there are incidents of crime such as burglary, hate crime, criminal damage and graffiti in Armley, which have a negative impact on the community there are a lot of positive partnership work taking place to tackle local residents concerns in relation to crime. Gill explained some of the work around cohesion that was being done.

The purpose of today, said Gill was to push the boundary a bit further, *“what does community cohesion mean to different people? “We are not looking for a new system but looking at what is already embedded. How can we work more as a team”*. Everybody is a big part of the solution and today is about bringing ideas about what might make community cohesion work .

Linda Joy Mitchell, a facilitator working with Together for Peace welcomed everybody and thanked people for taking the time to attend the event. She explained that today was not about strategy or action planning. There would not be any experts either, nor presentations. *“Today was our day.”* The event would be co-hosted with Mike, Jill and Valerie from Together for Peace, and the whole steering group. The purpose of the day was simple, it was about making connections. She reminded people that *“we all have a piece of the jigsaw and today we can put the pieces together to create one big picture. Today would provide the space to explore what community cohesion meant to us”*. Linda explained the flow of the day highlighting that it would be based on conversations and listening. *“This is more than chatting, it is about understanding, going deeper. What have we not heard before?”* She quoted Theodore Zeldin: *“Good conversation doesn’t just reshuffle the cards: it creates a whole new pack”*.

## Appreciative Conversation

Linda invited people at each table to start the first conversation of the day with the question: *“What do we love about Armley, what stories do you have of good community ?”*

Following a 20 minutes conversation, Linda invited people to share some of their stories of what they loved:

- **Strong sense of community**
- **The Resource Centre (e.g.: Videos at the Library)**
- **The Health Centre: Everything under one roof**
- **Good working partnership**
- **Local businesses employing local families**



- Green spaces
- People are involved
- Community organisations (e.g.: The Multi Faith Walk of Friendship event)
- The physical environment has not changed
- Friendly people
- A growing diversity
- There is room for lot of growth
- Story: The St Ives Mount street party in summer. Friendly street where people look after each other
- Story: Emma Bearman (self appointed Armley Mayoress) from the 'Armley Tourist Board' organised the yearly 'Charming Armley Cake Competition' which has become an highlight of the local calendar in recent years
- The recently developed 'Armley Calendar' which raises money for Armley Helping Hands. The 'Tourist Board' used local businesses for the PR activity
- Armley Fun Day in July

**Local Mosque: Bringing local people back to the mosque to play football. Everybody together, not just 'us' against 'them'. A way of starting talking to each other**

- **Strong history and heritage: The history of the industrial revolution (Armley Mills, library...). Famous people such as Alan Bennett (playwright), Barbara Taylor Bradford (novelist)**

## World Café

Mike Love welcomed people back from the coffee break. He asked for one person to stay at their table and the rest to move around so that they could converse with new people. He believed that each of the people present had a story to tell. It was important to 'drill down' into people's experience and what could their contribution be. Mike explained that there would be 2 weaves of conversation and we then would try to capture the key elements and connect the different ideas that had been expressed.



*"What does community cohesion mean to me?" asked Mike. "There is a lot of jargon around, we hear about Harmonious Community... but today we do not want the jargon, we want to know what you understand by community cohesion."* A good conversation then followed



Jill Mann then invited people to share their learning. The following ideas were spoken:

## What does community cohesion mean to me

- It is a community within a community. Can be broken down to individuals. You can be part of a community without being intrusive
- It's about environment: local shop, getting rid of boarded houses to make green spaces which would provide sign of life and raise the community spirit
- We can be respectful of each other (different look, colour...) but keep our own identity
- We had an event once 'Spring Together'. People from different areas, mosques, churches.... came together. We all planned and owned that event. This is cohesion
- It is like a pizza with plenty of different segments (pepperoni, cheese....) making a messy pizza
- It is about putting more focus by having plans to receive people with different backgrounds and experiences; experiences of coming in this country
- Some shops have closed down and been taken over by negative shops like betting. There should be low rent for new shops to be created such as shops that provide different variety of food. This would enhance social enterprise
- Community cohesion is about interacting, people talking with another. There is not enough of that as there is a fear culture of crime. The media also enhance this fear. Assumptions are made and therefore people are inhibited and do not interact
- It is about trust; looking out for each other. People are moving in and out of places but it would be good to know them, to introduce one to another when arriving. This would be half way of the solution to tackle main problems.



Further ideas were expressed on paper, collected and grouped into the following themes:

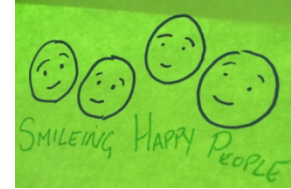
### **Crime**

Reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour

Reduced crime

Smiling Happy People

Feeling of safety and security of residents



### **Activity**

Community based activities

Free community centres; people say hello; low cost courses. Activities for teenagers to stop them going into trouble (e.g.: Skate Park, dancing...)

### **Local businesses/Services**

Diverse local shops = different communities interacting

Mix of businesses thriving through the street, diversity of shops

Main street focal point: communal places; Local shops; Health & community centres; Servicers (e.g: libraries...)

### **Spirit**

Positive images

Smiley, friendly, happy communities. More people out on the streets talking, playing

No betting shops, cash converters. Facelift to 'Armley Town street, little cafés. Activities together, henna, threading, cooking or knitting...

Community spirit, renovation

Bustle, interactive, local, visible community, cleanliness

Community spirit

No hate crime

Helping others when it is needed like we do in times of crisis (e.g: snow, floods)

### **Others**

No litter, no graffiti; Armley in bloom; Clean and tidy street

More stable/settled population (people staying in Armley)

Community pride and empowerment: Common 'ownership' of Armley



After lunch Jill invited people into Open Space to develop their own agenda for the afternoon around the core question: **What's possible for Armley, what might we do together?** Participants were invited to post topics for conversations following on from the ideas that had surfaced in the morning and exploring the possibility of joint work that would help bring the community together.

Topic hosts were asked to stay with their group and make a record of the recommendations that arose. Participants were encouraged to use 'the law of two feet' and move about from group to group if they felt they were not connected to the topic under discussion.

**12 workshop sessions were held:**

- **Armley Directory of Services**
- **What role do frontline workers / community groups have in helping build cohesive communities**
- **Cross cultural work – Different group working together**
- **Job survival or aspirations**
- **Partnerships in Armley – Links from today's meeting**
- **Team Wythers**
- **Myth busting – what works**
- **Play spaces for children**
- **Community events in Open Space – who to organise, who to volunteer (We will host ACRT)**
- **Community centers for Armley**
- **How do we provide activities for young people**
- **Multi – cultural youth work**



## Recommendations

From the different conversation groups, a number of recommendations were presented back to the whole group.

- **Armley Directory of Services**  
Recommendations:  
Someone to coordinate information on a regulatory basis and have information in different languages
- **What role do frontline workers / community groups have in helping build cohesive communities**  
What we learned:  
Working with young people – education, awareness, respect, diversity, creating environment where openness is present  
Signposting information – making sure agencies know who can help deliver

initiatives-what each of us do – networking communication – word of mouth face to face much stronger than leaflets, etc. Information branching out  
Joint events – very good for building relationships – idea from previous experience: close down of main street, performance, food home cooked, homemade products to sell. It was done every week - suggestion is to do one week everywhere different district in summer months – somewhere for all ages to go and free alcohol.

Recommendations:

Provide joined up service – responsibility to alert colleagues of issues which are outside of their work remit:

knowing how do contact

Networking opportunities – relationship building

The more activities that we can organise with cohesion in mind the better –

Organisers build cohesion into event

Opportunities to bring people together

Signposting service users to partners + information + knowing who does what

Support group from different nationalities

Talk about community cohesion in own organizations, i.e.: Healthy Living Network, introduce international food

Working in partnership with agencies across area – developing partnerships

Organisations in the same building working together

More information in community places: open days for organizations like children centres, AOSC so people know what services are in different buildings

Delivering services to group / families with social element rather than individually

Organisations thinking how to do joint service delivery to mix different group together

Making time to consider ideas + opportunities to make this happen

- **Cross cultural work – Different group working together**

What we learned:

Find the right people with the enthusiasm to take work forward

Role models are important

Listen

Sustainable activities better than one off projects

Challenge those who are not inclusive – Do not be afraid to upset

Challenge stereotypes

Need to give people a reason to get involved

Recommendations:

Make sure you attend and encourage others to attend all events where people of different background come together

Need catalysts

Work with leaders first

Look at success in other areas + replicate

- **Job survival or aspirations**

What we learned:

Don't think about it till it happens

Re evaluate route to take

Work outside community area



Aspiration staying / working locally

Recommendations:

More investment (public) in work training schemes

- **Partnerships in Armley – Links from today’s meeting**

What we learned:

Communication, sharing skills, experience.

High profile

- **Team Wythers**

What we learned:

Agreed a definition of Community Development

A strategic /co-coordinating group and an implementation group

Reduction in Funding/Resources – Need to work more creatively

Old fashioned community work and fundraising

Recommendations:

Agree a definition of Community Development and sign up to it

3 area agreement to bring people together

Door knock for community activists

- **Myth busting – what works**

What we learned:

Myths serve a purpose

Communities need a voice

Not all myths are untrue

Myths need to come up / be in the open

Myths exist within communities

Myths can be useful for communities who do not have power

- **Play spaces for children**

What we learned:

Not a lot of activities

Isolation

Limited after school events

Limited knowledge of what is available

Recommendations:

More information sharing

‘What’s on offer’

Green spaces

Ball games allowed

- **Community events in Open Space – who to organise, who to volunteer (We will host ACRT)**

What we learned:

Finding constraints, collaborative working

Recommendations:

Promote in the Year of Volunteer Programme

Promote in Armley forum

- **How do we provide activities for young people / Multi – cultural youth work**

What we learned:

What going on now (mapping up): Church groups, voluntary sector, youth services, schools, etc.→ Age groups, numbers

Universal U. Targeted provision

Reward culture – Give and take – what young people can contribute to the community

How can we encourage young people to work / activities across cultures, e.g. mosque, temples, churches, sport, music, mentors

Common sense approach. Improve aspirations

Recommendations:

Mentoring across cultures

Launch event

Coincide with the New Leisure Centre

Cross bridges (Projects)

Identifying and working with the ring leaders

Learning from other peoples experiences

Programme of activities at faith locations / sharing cultural experiences



## Check out

Mike invited the group to close the day by a circle where each person could express what bit of the conversation meant the most to them. What were they really taking away from the day not just in terms of process but also substance. Mike also asked for people to express any next step that they would maybe ready to take.

Here are some of the comments:

*I am new to the area. It has been useful to see positive work happening here. My next step is to join in the Wythers door knocking exercise*

*I got the opportunity to see what goes on in a different part of Leeds. I work in the centre of Leeds for the council and this has helped me see real examples of what goes on*

*There is a great hope in the area, lot of ideas and enthusiasm. I would love a bigger conversation, if people could come with 5 or 10 each*

*My role is to connect people from different projects and sometimes I get frustrated. I realise that you need to see thing through the smoke screen and continue. My next step is to connect with people here who can get involved in activity. Do not be over ambitious, just a bit makes lot of difference*

*How do we provide multicultural activity for youth? An open day at the new Armley centre, open local mosques, engaging and mixing cultures. For me it has been about coming out with achievable ideas. My next step will be having an action day, I will join with the door-knocking as it is a positive activity*

*I have seen real examples of what is happening, it was very positive to listen the story. I will get involved in local stuff*

*How can we work and stand back. Today has been very good. My next step is to get Sahid involved in cricket*

*Lot of good work. My job will be to put the piece together*

*Sometimes communities do not have the power. I work in a corporate center with nice documents, but it was very nice to see people, to see the real thing*

*I knew a lot was going on but I realise now how much. How much difference could we make if awareness was raised like it has been for me today*

*My 3 little next steps will be: Ask Dawn to come to our team meeting, pursue the connection I have made with 3 women from the mosque and remind my staff that Foundation Housing still exists*

*Today has made me more aware of what is happening. My next step is to have more group works in terms of promotion*

*Armley is amazing. I feel that there is a strong sense of community here. I will try to have more meeting like that and help people who want that sort of meeting*

*My commitment is to work with other agencies that could help us*

*We need to get a range of different people. How do we get people involved? I felt strength, we came together and it shows people's commitment. Every time there is a knock on the door it is the police or the bailiff, we need to change that.*

*I will carry on using the links I have got here. I will also go and meet the girls at the local mosque*

*I was not sure what to expect, maybe another talk, I came here to network. But I managed to have serious conversation with people who know what they want. Armley has a strong community spirit.*

*It is like a jigsaw. We all have a piece and we could put the piece together to see the big picture*

*Thank you to everybody for their contribution. I am happy to see people will take things forward. The next good thing could be to look at what could be done in the future with the community. It would also be good if senior managers could join us.*

*I am not originally from Armley. There is something about it, people have inspiration to take things forward. But how can we raise Armley's profile? I agree that we need to do this event again with different people. Also, how do we take work forward with the next generation?*

*I don't want this event to stop, but who will take it forward when we have gone. There is a hope that it could be regenerated with an even like that. I am not from Armley by birth but I think it is a shame I did not get involved before*

*This morning gave me a lot of energy when talking about cohesion. It was nice to see people with vision. Sharing each other's contact details could be the start of a directory. I would like another event but with lot of the community*

## Attendance list

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Bryce Sweeney	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Colin Halliwell	Jobs and Skills
Chris Hall	LCC Customer Service
Marva Pryce	Leeds Voice
Sue Disley	West Yorkshire Police
Tajinder Virdee	Leeds City Council
Gill Hunter	Leeds City Council
Shazad Kibria	Leeds City Council
Sohail Effendi	Leeds City Council
Mark Banam	West Yorkshire Police
Ruth Emmerson	West Yorkshrie Police
Mizbah Rafia	Ujaala Women's Centre
Sadia Mir	Ujaala Women's Centre
Tim Taylor	Adult Social Care
Andrea Bull	Leeds City Council
Stacey Joyes	NHS Leeds
Brent Riley	Foundation
Gary Blezard	West Yorkshire Police
Sara Barrie	West Yorkshire Police
Lynn Parns	Leeds City Council EATS
Martin Beaumont	Leeds City Council EAT
David Boutle	A.C.R.T
Anthony Lautan	Christ Chruch Armley Youth Project
Zubeda Ahmed	Ujaala Project
Bice Rowe	Radio Poplar



<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
D Newnome	Armley Helping Hands
J McNee	Groundwork
Karen Baites	Leeds City Council
Shahid Ashad	Armley Mosque
Keely Woodward-Chapman	Armley Moor Community Centre
Lloyd Herak	Groundwork
Sarah Berry	Parent Support Advisor Farnley Cluster
Charlotte Orton	NHS Leeds
Pippa Hutchinson	Think. Family Service. Barca Leeds
Arani Sen	Christ Church, MeetingPoint and Youth Project
David Gold	Leeds City Council
Tina Leslie	NHS Leeds
Mohua Gopalakrishnan	Health Living Network Living
Anne Hutchinson	Armley Primary
Collette Speight	Armley Primary
Nigel Pontes	Barca Leeds
Halina Prestt	Healthy Living Network Leeds
Rob Swithinbank	Customer Services – Leeds City Council
Zoe Chiswell	Armley District Nurses
Mimi Yan	Foundation
Pam Carr-Dixon	Foundation
Rachel Gibbons	Foundation
Jason Singh	Leeds City Council
Fozia Akram	Leeds City Council

## Steering group – Contact details

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