

Community cohesion – not just an urban experience.

Learning Lessons from the Cheshire Experience.

Presentation by Professor Richard Tomlins, Cohesia Ltd and Visiting Professor of Race and Diversity Coventry University.



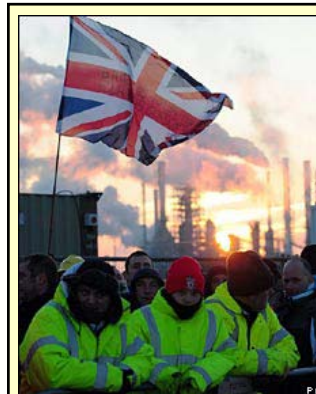
Aims.

- Outline the ethnic diversity of Cheshire.
- Highlight the pace of change.
- Recommend an EqIA tool for use within the LAA.



Community cohesion.

- Integration of new migrants and existing communities.
- Driver that ESOL funding should be more specifically targeted to foster community cohesion.
- Should be considered as part of wider local planning arrangements such as LAAs.
- Building positive relationships - simple contact is not enough.
- Communicate with existing communities about how their area is changing and what this means for them. This should include explanations of how public resources are allocated.



Workers said the action was not racist, but about discrimination against Britons...



One week of support protests.

1-5: Stanlow oil refinery [1]; Longannet Power Station [2]; Drax Power Station [3]; Coryton Refinery [4]; Langage Power Station [5]

6-10: Marchwood Power Station [6]; Fawley Refinery [7]; Torness Power Station [8]; Mossmorran chemical plant [9]; Aberthaw power station [10]

11-15: South Hook gas terminal [11]; ICI chemical refinery [12]; Corus steel plant [13]; Fiddler's Ferry Power Station [14]; AES Kilroot Power Station [15]

16-22: Cockerzie Power Station [16]; Sellafield nuclear site [17]; Heysham nuclear power station [18]; Staythorpe power station [19]; Didcot Power Station [20]; Grangemouth oil refinery [21]; St Fergus gas plant [22]





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Gaps in the information - data at the national level.

- Drowning in data.
- Confusion of BME, migrant worker and foreign born categories.
- Widespread acceptance that the Office of National Statistics' (ONS) national data is inadequate for planning local policy responses.
- Biggest gap around migrant workers.
- Plans for best practice guidance.

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Statistics chief Karen Durnell inflames row over foreign workers.

- Foreign workers increased by 175,000 to 2.4 million last year while the number of British workers fell by 234,000 to 27 million.
- Number of foreign-born workers has almost doubled since 1997. Number of British-born workers has risen by just 5 per cent to 25.58 million.
- MPs said that the release was misleading because many of those born outside the country had since become UK citizens.
- Figures fail to distinguish between temporary workers, Europeans and those on indefinite leave to remain.
- The figures also mask the increase in employment rates among Asian women.
- "Time lag" in non-UK workers losing their jobs during a downturn.

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Profile of information.

- The 2006 Communities of Cheshire Survey - 73% thought that Cheshire is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together.
- 2007 – 66% (national 80%)
- Below 66% for:
 - deprived areas
 - those aged 25-34
 - social grades D and E
 - those in rented accommodation.

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2001 BME population (non white).

- Chester – 4.81 (1.96)%
- Macclesfield – 4.54 (2.46)%
- Crewe and Nantwich – 3.76 (2.02)%
- Congleton – 2.74 (1.16)%
- Ellesmere Port and Neston – 3.03 (1.22)%
- Vale Royal – 2.67 (1.22)%.

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2001 – 2005 - 2006 Census data and Mid Year BME Estimates.

- Cheshire West and Chester – 5.2% (2005).
- Cheshire East – 5.6% (2005).
- Chester – 4.81 – 6.89 – 7.5%.
- Macclesfield – 4.54 – 6.78 – 7.3%.
- Crewe and Nantwich – 3.76 – 5.21 – 5.6%.
- Congleton – 2.74 – 4.54 – 4.7%.
- Ellesmere Port and Neston – 3.03 – 4.16 – 4.5%.
- Vale Royal – 2.67 – 4.06 – 4.5%.

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Largest minority populations.

- White Other group largest in all districts
 - Chester – 2,800 (1,150 NINO)
 - Macclesfield – 3,700 (760 NINO)
 - Crewe and Nantwich – 1,600 (1,390 NINO)
 - Congleton – 1,400 (190 NINO)
 - Ellesmere Port and Neston – 1,000 (290 NINO)
 - Vale Royal – 1,600 (400 NINO)
- White Irish second largest group largest in all districts



Dramatic increases for smaller minority populations.

- In every District the Black African population eg 300% in Ellesmere Port
- In every District the Black Caribbean population eg 325% in Vale Royal
- In every District the Pakistani population eg 426% in Vale Royal



Top 20 most deprived super output areas.

- Aside from Chester fairly evenly split between areas with a disproportionately large White British population and a disproportionately BME population
- Two Crewe and Nantwich areas in the top 20 have a particularly large BME population



Filling the gaps - local methodology

- Using LFS data in the short term...with caveats
- And/or using ONS and administrative data in the medium term
- Informed by views concerning the continuing flow of migrant workers so that services and the labour market can be planned



Filling the gaps – private sector

- Risk that the growing emphasis on targeting services to meet the needs of BME communities disguises market opportunities of the arrival of migrant workers and of BME communities more generally
- Ensure that the private sector is not only linking with CCP to allow it to better plan for the flow of migrant workers but that it is also being involved in looking at market opportunities



Filling the gaps – partnership role (1 of 2)

- CAA focus on proactive duties to promote equality.
- Check on partner's performance.
- Need to go beyond individual service boundaries.
- Need to promote a single equalities' framework that includes agreed equality and diversity monitoring categories across the Partnership.



Filling the gaps – partnership role (2 of 2)

- Need to go beyond 2001 Census categories, but be compatible with them.
- Be based on the policy making and service delivery requirements of partners.
- How many NIs do you want to disaggregate?
- Consider ways in which leadership, accountability and performance management are provided around equalities issues in the LSP.



A four stage EIA process.

- **Stage 1** – the opportunities for benefiting a range of communities and the relations between them and the risks of inequality or even discrimination.
- **Stage 2** – research and consultation stage to ensure evidence based policy making.
- **Stage 3** – action planning and commitment to continuous review.
- **Stage 4** – published outline of the way forward and performance indicators.



How to conduct an EIA.

- Begin as soon as a decision has been made to develop or review a policy, strategy, procedure or project.
- Should be carried out by those responsible for devising and delivering the policy.
- Ideally at least two members of staff should jointly undertake the assessment.
- No screening.



Equality impact issues.

- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Disability
- Age
- Sexuality
- Faith
- Poverty?
- Social inclusion/exclusion?
- Community cohesion



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