

All2gether

Community Update 1

October 2014



The Community Dialogue took place in September. There was a presentation setting the scene, looking at some of the statistics from The British Social Attitudes Survey 2013, which is carried out by NatCen Social Research. It measures social, political and moral attitudes from a random sample of over 3000 adults; it is important to note that the survey is a representation of just those surveyed and not representative of all of society.

Here are some of the findings from the 2013 survey that you might find quite interesting.

The percentage of people who say they possess some level of racial prejudice has gone down in in Yorkshire/Humberside by 6% (now 31% in the region), and in the South East it has gone up by 6% (now 30% in the region). Nationally almost a third of people say they possess some level of racial prejudice. Breaking this down into men and women, in 2000 30% were men and 22% women, in 2002 37% were men and 25% women, in 2013 32% are men and 29% women.

Here is a breakdown of some of the statistics around defining what makes a person British:

	1996	2013
To have been born British	76%	74%
To have British Citizenship	83%	85%
To have lived in Britain for most of one's life	71%	77%
To be able to speak English	85%	95%
To be Christian	34%	24%
To respect Britain's political institutions & laws	50%	50%
To feel British	73%	78%
To have British ancestry	46%	51%

On the impact of immigration 31% think it has been good for Britain's economy, 47% think it has been bad and 20% think it's neither good nor bad. 55% of those who have the most negative view of immigration think the main reason migrants come to Britain is to claim benefits. Of those who think immigration has benefitted British economy, 60% are graduates and 17% have no formal qualifications.

To find out more about the British Social Attitudes Survey please go to:

<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/british-social-attitudes/>

Those in attendance acknowledged the air of intolerance and distrust locally around ethnic diversity, especially in relation to race and religion. A few local stories were shared including neighbourhood racism incident and police response, stray dog issue and how services responded, low level hate crime in school. Racism against a local restaurant and incidents in local supermarkets have also been reported to All2gether. It was suggested that work needs to be done locally to raise awareness and understanding about what constitutes a hate crime, and how to report it.

All2gether continues to support individuals who are victims of any hate crime or discrimination against all the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation). West Berkshire Council has an online reporting system, and we encourage any school related incidents to be reported here: <http://www.loganincident.org//LAIHome.aspx>

There are a number of ways to report hate crimes online:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-hate-crime>

<http://www.report-it.org.uk/home>

<http://www.stophateuk.org/>

<http://tellmamauk.org/>

Always remember these are not emergency services – in case of an emergency please dial 999

The non-emergency Police phone number is 101 <http://www.police.uk/contact/101/>

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

The Public meeting with Richard Benyon MP asked the open question around community cohesion and integration. Richard's observations are as follows, we will work with Richard and others to take some of the suggestions forward.

"I am very concerned about the number of cases that are reported to you (All2gether) relating to attitudes or actions that demonstrate a deep misunderstanding of race or religion and unwelcome intolerance among some people. I would be keen to see the liaison groups you describe re-established and would be happy to take this up with the Area Commander in due course.

The Minority Ethnic Forum (All2gether) has done so much to promote greater understanding amongst ethnic groups in West Berkshire, but more needs to be done. I am looking for a comprehensive plan to extend the work of the Forum to ensure that it is reaching all sectors of society. This must include Schools and other educational establishments, the voluntary sector, the Local Authority and business community.

The clear need for this is heightened by some attitudes that may arise out of international events or the rise of certain, more extreme, political groupings.

There were a great many comments relating to press and media coverage. If people feel that an issue is being unfairly reported or presented in a biased and bigoted way, we must make it easier for people to complain. I am happy to make available details of complaints to Ofcom, BBC and other media organisations on my website and it may be possible to co-ordinate this with the All2gether (Minority Ethnic Forum's) website.

I also believe that we should do more to encourage those who are the subject of intolerance or racial abuse to report it to the Police. I was concerned by the number of people who felt it was not worth their time to make complaints. I am sure the Police would be interested in having a discussion about making reporting easier or more the norm if such actions happen anywhere in our community."