



Communities Together

A Strategy for Thurrock

What is Communities Together?

- It is about respecting each, valuing our diversity and celebrating differences across age, faith, race, gender, ability/disability, culture, background, neighbourhood and sexual orientation
- It is about recognising and building on the common values and aspirations we share, and lies at the centre of safe, strong and vibrant communities in which people feel engaged and able to influence decisions

Why is this important to Thurrock?

- The borough and its population are changing rapidly
- People are worried about the capacity of services
- There is insufficient engagement, and a lack of awareness of how to influence decisions
- Crime is relatively low, but fear of crime is high
- There is a perception of unfairness, linked to myths about preferential treatment of newer groups
- Although there are areas of good practice and valuable services, local residents do not always know about them

.....so how do we move things forward?

Influencing decisions



- Implementing the Duty to Involve within services, to improve our potential to meet real need
- Giving everyone – including harder to hear groups – the information, opportunities and skills to work together to shape future services and strengthen community well being

Appreciating differences



- Embedding the Communities Together values into Thurrock's ethos and culture
- Making this integral to all our engagement activity, communications, events, consultations, corporate strategies, procurement and bids, to ensure that Thurrock is a safe and welcoming place

Sharing common values



- A social marketing and engagement campaign to promote meaningful interaction across our communities, inspiring attainment through positive relationships
- Community grants marking 1000 days to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, espousing the values and cultural dimensions of excellence, respect, internationalism and friendship

Supporting each other



- Targeted interventions across key, identified communities
- Working in partnership on issues and potential inequality, improving perceptions of how well people from different backgrounds get on together in their local area
- We all have a part to play in bringing and building Communities Together

Our aspirations

- A Thurrock in which everyone values our changing diversity
- Where there is a feeling of unity among people of all ages and all backgrounds
- Where everyone participates freely and knows that their contribution is valued
- A Thurrock in which we are proud to live, work, learn and enjoy



A call to action

- It is really important that people from across our communities feel engaged, get on well together and enjoy the benefits of a strong, vibrant borough
- We will be setting up a Reference Group to take the Communities Together strategy and your ideas from today's workshops forward
- It is a team effort, and we value your contribution:

Together

Everyone

Achieves

More