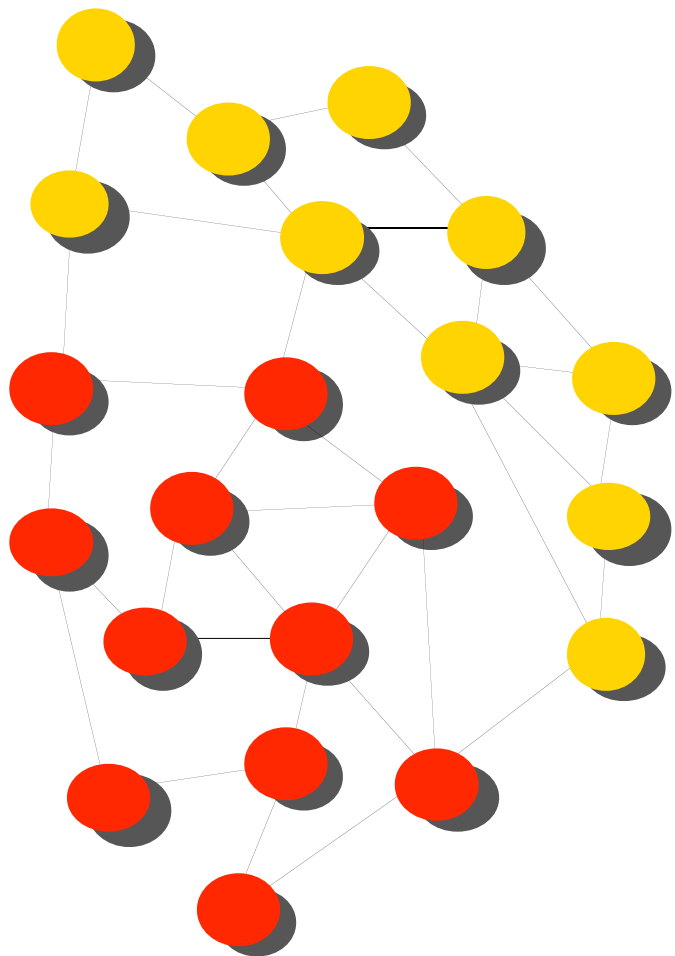


Community Cohesion in Pendle

A report by Drew Mackie Associates

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Community Cohesion In Pendle

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Foreword

Led by the Community & Social Inclusion Key Priority Group, Pendle Partnership commissioned the study detailed in this report.

In March 2004 Drew Mackie Associates were appointed, with a brief to:

- Map existing work in local agencies which promotes community cohesion
- Conduct a public attitude survey to explore the views of local people on community cohesion issues.

The remit was to consider community cohesion in its broadest sense, by identifying issues around culture, age, faith, ethnicity and locality, including urban and rural issues.

Funding for the project was secured from East Lancs Together (Home Office Community Cohesion Pathfinder).



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Summary

This study has two major strands:

- mapping the organisations and groups concerned with Community Cohesion in Pendle
- gauging the attitudes and perceptions that people in Pendle have of other Pendle communities

These two strands have been accomplished through a programme of interviews with groups and agencies and workshops with groups of local people. The workshops used storytelling techniques to allow people to hide behind invented characters in expressing views and experiences.

The findings of the study are:

Mapping

- 1 Pendle possesses a well connected network of agencies and groups with a wide range of projects and programmes which can be seen as encouraging cohesion.
- 2 Six organisations dominate or potentially dominate the connections in this network:
 - Pendle Local Strategic Partnership
 - Pendle Community Network
 - Pendle Pakistan Welfare Association
 - Building Bridges
 - Pendle Borough Council
 - Lancashire Constabulary

Most other organisations connect to these central nodes and this gives the network a high degree of connectivity (no organisation is more than two connections from any other).

- 3 The physical proximity of many of these organisations in Nelson gives many opportunities for informal networking and this adds to the strength of the network. On the other hand this focus on Nelson may alienate people from the other settlements and the rural areas.
- 4 The network is largely based on short term funding. This gives it a degree of instability in that some of the key links and many of the on the ground delivery organisations may not be sustainable beyond their present funding. This undermines long-term planning and public confidence.

Attitudes

- 1 Although there is a level of irritation between ethnic groups in some geographic areas and age groups, we did not find widespread racist views although there is a low level of racial banter particularly amongst young people. On the other hand there is not a great deal of engagement between the Asian and

white communities. This is not quite the "parallel lives" referred to in the Cantle report. There is perhaps more of "live and let live" attitude in Pendle.

- 2 This does not mean that ethnic division or even violence will not occur in Pendle under any circumstances. The present situation is the result of hard work of many different organisations. If that is damaged by lack of continuity or resources, the local situation may change. External factors (Iraq?) or a particularly violent local incident could polarise urban communities that are, at present fairly separate but also fairly tolerant of each other's ways.
- 3 There are resentments between the rural areas and the urban areas over the allocation of resources. These are seen to be unfairly biased towards urban areas which also have a large Asian population. There is a danger of such divisions becoming perceptually aligned with ethnic divisions.
- 4 The rural areas and local business tended to see the community cohesion agenda in ethnic terms and therefore either as not relevant to them or already dealt with under race relations legislation.
- 5 Most trusted elements were Family, Friends and Locality. Least trusted were Agencies and Faith and Other Communities. The greatest disagreement over who to trust occurred over Other Communities.
- 6 People in urban areas expressed a more complex attitude to the reporting of racial violence or damage than those in rural areas, citing the severity of an incident as the main determinant of whether to report it. In rural areas, most people say they would report an incident. This can be seen as reflecting different degrees of familiarity with such incidents.
- 7 Much of the resentment that does exist is not necessarily based on myth but on real issues such as resource allocation. This makes a simple "mythbusting" exercise difficult.

Ways Forward:

- 1 Any campaign to assist local community cohesion should have two tracks:
 - strengthening the sustainability of the network of organisations
 - spreading the gospel of community cohesion, countering negative messages and preventing the alignment of negative issues with ethnic and cultural differences.
- 2 As an aid to communication and the development of coherent, across the board policies, the map should be published in an interactive form updatable by its constituent organisations. The Pendle Portal may be the ideal organisation to oversee the technical aspects. The changing structure of organisations should be monitored to ensure that links are being strength-

ened and extended. Financial continuity and good communications will be important to this.

- 3 Local media should be brought into the agency debate on community cohesion as a player rather than as a mere recorder of events.
- 5 Appropriate cartoon characters could be used as the basis for a campaign of:
 - debunking inaccurate views
 - correcting exaggerated views
 - justifying and explaining real situations

Cartoons would have the benefit of injecting some humour into the "walking on eggshells" world of community cohesion.

- 6 The storytelling kit should be published as an aid to the discussion of cohesion. This could also form the basis of local competitions to spread cohesion ideas.
- 7 The alignment of issues with ethnic division should be constantly monitored and countered in the media. The most effective channels for messages will be through media that reach Family, Friends and Locality. Agency pamphlets and press releases will not be as trusted a source.

1 Introduction

1.1 REMIT

In October 2002, Pendle became one of a number of authorities (as part of East Lancs Together) nominated as Community Cohesion Pathfinders. Community Cohesion has become a central issue for government and local policy since the disturbances in Oldham, Bradford and Burnley in 2001. Although Pendle escaped events of this sort, its proximity to Burnley and the high numbers of residents with an ethnic minority (mainly Pakistani) background, raised questions as to the likelihood of inter-ethnic conflict in Pendle and what stance various public and voluntary bodies should be taking towards these issues.

We have been commissioned to examine the state of community cohesion in Pendle with a view to creating a baseline picture against which future changes can be assessed.

The work has proceeded in two stages:

- mapping the range of agency and community groups active in the field of community cohesion in Pendle
- assessing the attitudes and perceptions that community members have in relation to their daily lives, and their links with other communities

The purpose of this work is to inform Pendle's Community Cohesion Action Plan and establish a baseline against which to assess its future performance.

1.2 FRAMEWORK

The Cantle Report¹, published in 2003 as a response to the happenings in Oldham Bradford and Burnley, sees physical and cultural segregation as a main component contributing to community fragmentation in the areas studied. It states that

"The extent to which these physical divisions were compounded by so many other aspects of our daily lives, was very evident. Separate educational arrangements, community and voluntary bodies, employment, places of worship, language, social and cultural networks, means that many communities operate on the basis of a series of parallel lives. These lives often do not seem to touch at any point, let alone overlap and promote any meaningful interchanges".

However, it was noted that: "... programmes devised to tackle the needs of many disadvantaged and disaffected groups, whilst being well intentioned and sometimes inspirational, often seemed to institutionalise the problems." Area based regeneration initiatives were criticised for being less able to unite different groups and a more thematic approach was suggested.

¹

Community Cohesion Unit (2001): Community Cohesion: A Report of the Independent Review Team. http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs2/comm_cohesion.html

This theme of "parallel lives" noted by Cattle has become central to the various studies and initiatives at national level, culminating in the recent Final Report of the Community Cohesion Panel² which suggests far-reaching changes at national and local levels to create greater integration of communities. These include the introduction of community cohesion criteria across the total spectrum of public organisations.

Pendle is different from Burnley, Oldham and Bradford. Similar large-scale disturbances have not occurred. What makes Pendle different? How do people perceive living in Pendle? We need to understand not only Pendle's weaknesses but also its strengths and potential. Proximity to Burnley may even have had a positive effect on Pendle, creating the determination "not to let it happen here". Our research suggests that this is the case thanks to numerous organisations and educational institutions that not only work in close relationship together but see the increasing importance of a thematic and all inclusive approach.

The Local Government Association has provided guidance on how to foster community cohesion and emphasises that each geographic area is unique. Generalised, top down solutions may not be appropriate. It suggests:

- special focus on the active involvement of young people in the consultation process
- wide consultation among all communities (majority and minority)
- inviting the leaders of all communities and faiths to launch the process and ask for their ideas and support
- involving local press and media
- use existing channels and utilise community and voluntary organisations
- identify and develop both qualitative and quantitative measures of community cohesion to help monitor progress

Many of the more quantitative aspects needed to meet national guidelines and to inform Pendle's Community Cohesion Action Plan have been established in the recently published Best Value Performance Indicators³ (BVPI) for Pendle.

Although our work establishes a number of measurable criteria that will allow the identification of change in the future, much of the basic material collected is subjective - and is all the more valuable for that. It is the perceptions and attitudes of ordinary people that determine how they relate to other communities. We have established methods for assessing these more subjective (and less measurable) factors now and in the future.

² Community Cohesion Panel (2004): The End of Parallel Lives.

³ Community Cohesion Unit (2003) Building a Picture of Community Cohesion: A Guide for Local Authorities and their Partners. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs2/buildpicturecomcohesion.html>

2 Background

2.1 THE COHESION DEBATE

In its guidance on community cohesion the Home Office⁴ broadly defines a cohesive community as one where:

- there is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities;
- the diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued;
- those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities
- strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods.

In the UK, the debate about community cohesion is firmly rooted in issues of racial prejudice, public disorder and the factors that might contribute to these. In the US, a more general debate is taking place around questions of the decline of community institutions (see Robert Putnam's "Bowling Alone"⁵) and the effects that this has had on the sense of community in American life. We have tried to find a middle road between the concerns prompted by Pendle's proximity to Burnley and the need to understand the general factors of attitude and perception that lead to divisions of all sorts throughout Pendle so as to provide a framework for cohesion policies.

Several questions were raised by ourselves and the local communities, groups and agencies with which we worked:

What is "cohesion"?

In early conversations with the client group, we explored ideas of cohesion and looked at different definitions. The one that gained most support for the Pendle area was: "the glue that holds communities together" This has become a central thread of the study.

How does the community cohesion agenda relate to other similar concerns such as racial equality, hate crime and community safety and where does it fit in the wider social capital agenda?

This is an interesting area of investigation. Many of those interviewed assumed that community cohesion was a subsection of racial equality. The subject has become firmly rooted in the racial and public order agendas. In our view this is a mistake. There are other divisions in the Pendle community that are of equal concern and which need to be addressed by a common sense cohesion

⁴ Community Cohesion Unit (2002) Guidance on Community Cohesion, LGA Publications, London. http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs2/cc_guidance.html

⁵ Bowling Alone- the Collapse and Revival of American Community, Robert D Putnam, Touchstone, 2000

strategy. The concentration on racial and inter-ethnic issues can obscure many of the other barriers to community co-operation.

Recent work on community cohesion by Tower Hamlets⁶ points to the similarities between many of the aims of community cohesion and the building of "social capital" - networks of trust that allow communities to function. We agree that the creation of social capital - trust, networks of groups and organisations, shared perceptions and aims - will be crucial to the maintenance and development of community cohesion in Pendle.

How does the cohesion agenda translate into real actions to build on community strengths and minimise community fragmentation?

The debate here centred around how the weaknesses of the funding system for community projects can lead to fragmentation of community effort and how competition between groups that should be co-operating for the common good can damage the general community effort. This is not a debate unique to Pendle.

The cycles of funding mean that there is little stability in the system of policies, programmes and projects that underpins community initiative. At national level we have elections at least every four years which means that policies are often assessed more for their potential as vote winners than their practical long-term results.

At local level, three year funding is the maximum and much of this has to be sought competitively. This results in a most inefficient and frustrating cycle in which the first year is spent setting the project up and establishing the trust of its "customers", the second year is spent delivering the programme or project and the third is spent looking for further funds - or another job. Our experience working across the UK is that this system contributes greatly to the cynicism and disillusion of communities about government and agency initiatives. There is no stability within which long-term improvements can develop. The situation in Pendle is no different. A number of organisations and community groups involved in the workshops mentioned the duplication and fragmentation of effort.

The Cattle Report itself identified the rash of local and national initiatives, often unco-ordinated, sometimes conflicting, as contributing to the lack of community cohesion. The solution given is to mainstream local actions and this is to great extent what the various community cohesion strategies in England try to do. However, the national system of initiatives and the experience of local activists and groups will take a long time to settle into this new rhythm. Many activists have gained their spurs in the constant battle for funding and stability.

⁶ Tower Hamlets Council (2003) Community Cohesion in Tower Hamlets, <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/your-council/data/beacon/context.doc>

The Home Office Report⁷ on the Bradford, Oldham and Burnley disturbances in 2001 highlighted a list of elements that existed to a greater or lesser extent in the affected areas:

- the lack of a strong civic identity or shared social values to unite diverse communities
- the fragmentation and polarisation of communities – on economic, geographical, racial and cultural lines – on a scale which amounts to segregation, albeit to an extent by choice
- disengagement of young people from the local decision making process, inter-generational tensions, and an increasingly territorial mentality in asserting different racial, cultural and religious identities in response to real or perceived attacks
- weak political and community leadership
- inadequate provision of youth facilities and services
- high levels of unemployment, particularly amongst young people
- activities of extremist groups
- weaknesses and disparity in the police response to community issues, particularly racial incidents
- irresponsible coverage of race stories by local media

As we will see, these aspects are present to some extent in Pendle, but the divisions they indicate are not always along racial lines. In general, we think that Pendle presents a more optimistic situation, but this has been achieved by the hard work of a range of organisations many of whom suffer from the short-term funding problems discussed on the previous page. The challenge will be to maintain and improve the present situation.

2.2 PENDLE AND BURNLEY

An interesting comparison can be made with Burnley:

- 8% of Burnley's population is from an ethnic minority background. The rate in Pendle is 15%. (Census 2001)
- Burnley is almost all urban. Pendle has extensive areas of countryside with small rural settlements as well as the urban centres of Nelson, Brierfield and Colne.
- The Asian population in Pendle is quite homogenous with most coming originally from a few small villages in Gujarat which may make it easier to spread messages to scotch rumours and maintain calm. In contrast the Burnley Asian population is split between those of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin.
- Much of the early trouble in Burnley was concentrated in a cluster of "hard white" pubs in close proximity to a predomi-

⁷ Community Cohesion Unit (2001): Community Cohesion: A Report of the Independent Review Team. http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs2/comm_cohesion.html

nantly Asian area. Pendle does not have the same concentration of such pubs.

- Many of the white participants in the Burnley disturbances were known football hooligans (Lancashire Constabulary say that Burnley had one of the largest numbers of passport withdrawals from fans intending to travel to the European Cup -). Although we don't know the numbers of excluded fans that reside in Pendle, it is probably safe to assume that it is less than in Burnley itself. However, after the disturbances in Burnley some of those charged by the police came from Pendle. Petrol bombs were discovered by the police in the borough.

The point to be made here is that, although Pendle and Burnley share some characteristics, they differ in many others. Also, local and national situations have changed since 2001. More effort is being spent on community cohesion matters and there is greater awareness of the issues. On the other hand, 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq may have introduced new tensions.

2.3 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SUMMARY

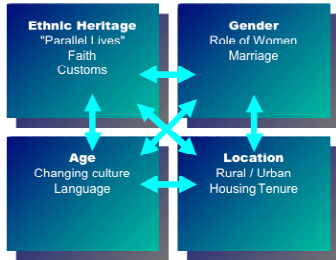
The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) publishes figures collected from each local authority area in England covering a range of measurable factors. These are known as best value performance Indicators or BVPIs. The recently published indicators for Pendle included the following:

- 44% of people in Pendle think that it is a place which respects ethnic differences - 17% disagree and 28% tend to disagree.
- 55% of Pendle people have their greatest contact with other cultures in shops

Both these statistics are affected by the number of people who have little or no contact with other communities - mainly those living in the rural areas and towns where there are few people of a different ethnic background.

- 48% of Pendle people thought that race relations had got worse in the last year.
- but this was outranked by the perceptions of worsening crime, traffic congestion (both 64%), and cost of living (60%). It is interesting that one of the reasons for liking living in Pendle was given as low crime rate!
- teenagers hanging around the street and vandalism were given high problem ratings (around 70%) along with drunkenness. Race violence was ranked alongside litter at 50%. Drugs were ranked top of the problem list at 77%.
- 15% of the population of Pendle are of ethnic minority origin. This figure does not differentiate between people born in this country and those born abroad. Colne, Barnoldswick, Earby and the countryside areas have virtually no ethnic minority populations, so the proportion of ethnic minorities in the towns of Nelson and Brierfield is much higher.

3 Dimensions of Difference



The four "dimensions" used in the study showing possible issues

The Home Office publications and the various forms of advice given to local authorities stress ethnic differences as central to the consideration of community cohesion. There is a danger that the concentration on ethnicity obscures a number of other dimensions that create divisions between parts of the general community. For the purposes of this study we selected four initial "dimensions" that we would use in order to establish possible fault lines. These are:

- age
- rural / urban location
- ethnicity
- gender

In establishing attitudes and assessing the work of groups and agencies, we have attempted to include views and attitudes from people spread throughout the area.

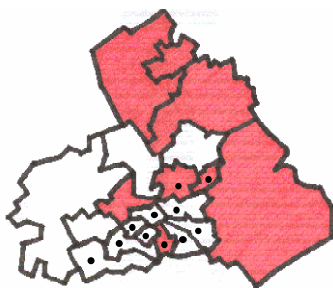
It has been more difficult to persuade people in rural areas to take part in the study. We encountered considerable suspicion of the term "community cohesion" - almost as if it were an urban social worker's term unconnected with rural life. A question that we encountered several times was "Why should we take part - What's in it for us?" This alienation of the rural areas from the more urban and ethnically mixed areas of Pendle has implications for the implementation of community cohesion that we will explore later in this report.

Concerns such as the breakdown of village life as young people have to leave to find affordable accommodation, the isolation of women or old people and so on, were not seen to be covered by community cohesion which was perceived, by those in rural areas, to be urban and racially based.

Previous disappointments when competing for funding against urban areas were often cited as reasons for not becoming involved. "Pendle doesn't care about the countryside areas" was an accusation we heard several times. Indeed urban / rural differences were probably the greatest that we encountered, with a degree of bitterness, perception of unfairness and separation that we did not find in urban areas. It is significant that the British National Party fielded many of its recent Council election candidates in such areas and averaged 20.26% of the vote in the wards in which it stood. Predominantly white, peripheral housing estates were also targeted (Vivary Bridge and Horsfield in Colne - Clover Hill in Nelson). It came second in four wards campaigning on issues of unfairness in the allocation of resources. Two of these (Horsfield and Clover Hill) are in urban areas.

The original Cantle Report cited similar feelings of unfairness at the allocation of regeneration funds as a factor in the Oldham, Bradford and Burnley disturbances.

Areas of Pendle contested by far right in Council elections 2004 (areas shown dotted are largely urban)



4 Methods

4.1 MAPPING

We have prepared a map of the agencies and groups that have a role in the promotion of community cohesion in Pendle. This has involved interviews with many organisations (see list in Appendix). In these interviews we have asked representatives of the organisations to describe what they do and how they see these activities relating to:

- the promotion of community cohesion
- the reduction of barriers between communities
- the promotion of greater tolerance and understanding between cultural groups

Interviewees have then been asked to contribute to a map that shows:

- a range of organisations involved in community cohesion matters
- the operational links between them

A list of community cohesion projects was also obtained from each organisation. The results of this exercise appear in Section 5.

4.2 STORYTELLING



A storytelling session

Community cohesion is a concept with which few people will disagree. Yes, communities that stick together are a "good thing". The problem for a study like this is getting under the skin of concepts that respondents know should have a positive answer and bringing out the nuances behind perceptions and attitudes. From the start we have felt that the normal questionnaire based approach alone would not give the richness and complexity that we required. We therefore elected to operate through two channels in speaking to local people. These were:

- group storytelling
- short, targeted individual questionnaires concerning community safety for those who participated in the storytelling (see Appendix 6)

Storytelling is a widespread method for communication and information exchange and has the advantage of being accessible not only to different cultures but also different classes, genders and ages.

Group Stories

Groups of around 6 people were engaged in storytelling sessions. These revolved around the creation of fictitious characters drawn from the participants' community. Characters stories were plotted on a "timeline" that took them from birth to old age. Participants were encouraged to use their own experience to create the charac-

Timeline		Character: Jenny (14 years old)		Age: 14	
birth to age 5	Jenny is born in Pendle, Lancashire. She is the youngest of four children. Her father is a carpenter and her mother is a housewife. They live in a small terraced house in the town of Pendle.	6 to 10	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	11 to 15	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.
16 to 20	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	21 to 25	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	26 to 30	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.
31 to 35	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	36 to 40	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	41 to 45	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.
46 to 50	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	51 to 55	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	56 to 60	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.
61 to 65	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	66 to 70	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	71 to 75	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.
76 to 80	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	81 to 85	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	86 to 90	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.
91 to 95	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	96 to 100	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.	101 to 105	Jenny is a good student. She is popular and has many friends. She is a member of the school choir and the school sports team. She is a member of the Girl Guides.

A Timeline sheet (above) and crisis cards (below)



ter and we eavesdropped on the debate that went into character creation. This process allowed participants to:

- "hide" behind the character in expressing unpopular or unacceptable views
- bring out subjects for discussion that are not normally aired in front of researchers or teachers (except perhaps in one-to-one in-depth counselling)
- describe the environments in which the characters act and the daily influences on their lives

As the storytelling proceeds, and once the character is established we give groups "crisis" cards describing events that might have a major effect on the character's life. The object of these is to see who the character will turn to in times of stress and to discuss the options that are available.

At the end of the storytelling session, groups prepare a polar chart to show who the character trusts most. The timelines and charts are posted around the room to allow everyone to see other group's results. If there is time, a general discussion can then be had about what holds communities together and the role of trust in this.

Individual participants are also asked to fill in a short questionnaire that targets matters of community safety.

In general, this method has been successful in drawing out aspects of what holds communities together and the relative levels of trust assigned to various elements both internal and external to that community. It must be emphasised that the stories themselves get the group to think about matters of trust and this prepares them for scoring the polar diagram and completing the questionnaire. (see examples of the timeline, the polar diagram and the questionnaire in Appendices 4, 5 & 6)

Around 580 people from all over Pendle took part in the storytelling. Many of these stories were "self administered" through kits that we gave to groups to run themselves and return the results to us.

4.3 SUMMARY

We have used a range of methods to address the various audiences across which the work took place. These have tried to emphasise the richness of the response and to give people the freedom to tell us what life in Pendle is like, what the threats and divisions are and how they see future opportunity. The bulk of the work is qualitative, but we have provided methods which can be used in the future to reassess the situation.

The issues that emerged from the storytelling exercise are described in Section 6.

5 Mapping

In creating the map of organisations and groups, we interviewed representatives of organisations mainly based in Pendle and mostly in Nelson. This concentration on Nelson is a consequence of most organisations and agencies having their offices in the town. As we will see this has major advantages in terms of informal links and major disadvantages in terms of the perceived isolation of rural areas from funding and decision making.

Some organisations were based outside Pendle although having a local operational presence in the Borough. Interviews were conversational and generally touched on:

- the general role of the organisation, its size and distribution
- specific programmes and projects that might come under the heading of community cohesion

Before launching into a detailed analysis of organisations, their links and projects, there are several general points to be made about agencies and other groups in Pendle. Many are situated in Nelson within a small area of the town centre that allows many informal contacts and chance conversations. This gives the network a huge advantage over more dispersed or formal arrangements:

- most people working in the cohesion, regeneration and community fields know each other
- chance conversations in the street can generate ideas and initiatives that would take longer to happen or might not happen at all in more formal circumstances.
- many of the contacts between organisations occur face-to-face and this assists the general "joint thinking" of organisations.

At the same time, this cosy network can be viewed with suspicion by people outside Nelson.

5.1 TRUST & COMMUNICATION

Probably the main element in the building of community cohesion is the establishment of *networks* of trust between and within the diverse components of a community. The paradox of the whole area of community cohesion is that strong links of trust, respect and loyalty *within* a community can often make it difficult to develop such links *between* communities. And even where such links between communities exist they are often of recent origin, depend on a few outgoing personalities and are relatively weak.

Research in the development of social and organisational networks⁸ shows that a few well placed links can make a huge difference to the way that different parts of a community or organisation communicate. Conversely the removal or lack of these strategically placed links can have a disproportionately damaging effect on net-

⁸ see "Managing the Connected Organisation" by Valdis Krebs, (www.orgnet.com/MCO.html).

work performance. Research has also established that within both corporate and community networks, influence will commonly operate within a "two step horizon" - that an organisation will have an effect on other organisations within a range of two links but that influence diminishes abruptly beyond that. Thus links and their arrangement are important in determining the effectiveness of a network, how it is controlled and how it operates. The mapping exercise has shown that there are several organisations that have a larger number of links than others. These organisations tend to stand between national and regional organisations and the local groups engaged in projects. They are "brokers" in the sense that they may facilitate the formation and funding of projects without being directly involved. The organisations that act this way are:

- the Local Strategic Partnership
- Pendle Community Network
- Pendle Pakistan Welfare Association
- Building Bridges
- Lancashire Constabulary (in a support role to various projects)
- Pendle Borough Council

These organisations have been cited purely because of the degree of connectivity they display in the network of local organisations dealing with community cohesion. Thus they have the *existing* or *potential* power to hold that network together. Other organisations may be more effective or efficient. We are not commenting on the success or failure of these organisations in fulfilling their role. They are selected purely because of their degree of connectivity to the network as a whole and therefore how central they could be to its future development in terms of promoting cohesion. Interestingly, these organisations cover rather different parts of the network:

- **Pendle Local Strategic Partnership
(Pendle Partnership)**

The Partnership covers the funding of projects and co-ordination of strategy throughout Pendle. It has a central role in setting and co-ordinating strategy relating to community cohesion, particularly through its Community and Social Inclusion Key Priority Group. Other areas of operation are Neighbourhood Renewal, the production of action plans and the creation and updating of a performance management framework for its activities. Most of the organisations interviewed had some kind of link with the LSP. This means that it can be hugely influential community cohesion matters.

- **Pendle Community Network**

This organisation covers advice and support for a large number of community based organisations in Pendle many of whom have a role in community cohesion matters. It has also set up spin-off organisations.(CASP - Community Accounting Services Pendle, Pendle Community Enterprise Agency).

- **Pendle Pakistan Welfare Association**

While originally founded to provide advice and signposting to the Pakistani community, PPWA now says that 25% of its customers are from the white community. As a result it is considering changing its name so that it does not appear to work solely for one ethnic group.

- **Building Bridges**

This organisation carries out the role of linking people from different faiths throughout Pendle and of communicating ideas of tolerance, understanding and responsibility to young people. It does this through two major programmes:

- the delivery of citizenship programmes in local schools as a part of the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum
- the holding of joint meetings of different faiths so that there may be more understanding of the other's point of view.

- **Lancashire Constabulary**

The Lancashire police force has a national reputation for pioneering "problem oriented policing" in which it attempts to deal with the general causes of crime. Many of the recommendations now coming from the Home Office can be traced to the work of the Lancashire force. Community units have recently been established to work in Nelson and Brierfield and other town centres. The Police are part of the Community Safety Partnership and carry out outreach work with local schools. They have a central role in mapping the locations of tension and in monitoring the incidence of various crimes including "hate crime" which includes racial violence to persons and property. They also have the on the ground operational experience to assess and deal with developing situations.

- **Pendle Borough Council**

PBC has the statutory responsibility for the delivery of many services throughout Pendle. As such it's officers and elected members have a key role in ensuring that matters of cohesion are reflected in policies, programmes and projects.

In the map overleaf, the above listed organisations are shown as "Brokers / Facilitators" as they generally act to enable other organisations to carry out projects. Organisations in the "Policy and Funding" area of the map have a wider geographic remit than Pendle although they may have an operational base in the borough. All other organisations are grouped according to the issues that they address. Descriptions of the organisations shown together with a list of the community cohesion projects in which they are involved are shown in Appendix 1.

Community Cohesion in Pendle



The map above shows the various organisations that are involved in community cohesion in Pendle. Organisations have been grouped by the area in which they are likely to contribute most to cohesion although many organisations could contribute in several categories. The "Broker Facilitator" group especially has a broad range of linkages with many of the groups on the map and acts in many cases as an intermediary between the Policy and Funding level and the groups operating on the ground.

6 Attitudes & Issues

The interviews, story telling and workshops revealed a set of recurrent issues:

6.1 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Family Support

The support of the extended family was an element that occurred in many stories. This was fairly equally distributed across the ethnic and rural/urban dimensions. The role of grandparents, aunts and uncles in supporting a character in a crisis was stressed by many people and "the Family" easily outranked other elements in the scoring of trust.

This element was stronger in Asian communities and tended to be increasingly stressed as the age of the storytelling group increased.

Community Ties and Obligations

This is a common theme in both white and Asian stories. Localities were generally a strong determinant in terms of who was trusted and people felt strong loyalties to an area.

Intermarriage

Many of the stories (particularly those created by young people) contained examples of mixed marriages and the tensions that this could create particularly for traditional Asian heritage families. Arranged marriages occurred in many stories and some of these were a reaction to a son or daughter developing a liaison across culture boundaries.

6.2 THREATS

Racial abuse

Racial abuse occurred in some stories although there were no incidents of racial violence. During discussions on what should be done to counter racial abuse, urban respondents tended to differentiate between degrees of severity of the incident. Thus a stabbing or a beating would definitely be reported but verbal abuse would generally not. This corroborates the similar findings of the Lancaster University study into attitudes of under 25s in Pennine Division⁹.

A number of comments were made regarding gangs of youths hanging out in urban centres and being disrespectful or sometimes abusive to passers-by. Such groups were usually from one racial group and this could be found intimidating by people from other cultures. Brierfield town centre was cited several times as sometimes having a threatening atmosphere.

⁹ Racism among under 25s in Pennine Division: A Research Report for Lancashire Constabulary by Dr Heryl Simmill-Binning, Professor David Smythe and Dr Ian Paylor, University of Lancaster

Anti-Social Behaviour

This is a key concern that comes through agency interviews and community workshops. Often stories would talk about "getting in with a bad crowd" and subsequent trouble with the police. Friction between teenagers and parents figured prominently in stories. The Pendle Best Value Practice Indicator figures also show that this is a key concern of many people (70%) when associated with gangs of youths hanging about the streets.

Economic Decline

There was a general perception that people were not as well off as before. This is borne out by the Pendle Best Value Practice Indicator figure of 60% who feel they are worse off than last year. Worryingly many of the stories talked of the success of a character once they had left Pendle and 47% of the questionnaire respondents did not see their future in the area.

Drug Culture

This was felt to undermine the cohesion of community areas and to lead to tensions between gangs who may be of different cultural backgrounds. It came top of the Pendle Best Value Practice Indicator concerns (77%). Many stories saw characters as being ruined by drugs. There was a high awareness of the drug culture among schoolchildren.

Decline in Meeting Places

Some of the rural groups commented on the decline of meeting places as contributing to the decline of village life. Partly this was because the traditional meeting places (Church, Village Hall) were not seen as relevant by some and had been replaced by the pub. But there was a general sense across the board that there were fewer appropriate venues for getting together with other members of the community. This refers more to the perception of ownership rather than the actual availability of space.

Deteriorating Environment

When the physical environment was mentioned, it tended to have negative connotations in urban stories and positive associations in country areas. Several urban housing areas were referred to in a disparaging way (most notably Whitefield) and this view was spread across all groups who mentioned place.

Ethnic Divisions

Overt divisions between those of white and Asian origin did not surface much in the character building exercise. Even characters that were thoroughly "bad" were not given racist views and there were few incidents described that had a racial origin. "Trouble with the Police" was usually attributed to drugs or petty theft (although we did have a couple of domestic murders). This lack of reference to racial distrust was spread across all workshops - those held with a single ethnic group and those held with mixed groups (mixed groups were mostly schoolchildren).

Decline in Family Ties

The decline in family ties was mentioned in a broad spread of characters and divorce and separation were common events. This occurred over all workshops groups although was much less prevalent workshops held with older people of both ethnic groups. In rural communities, the lack of affordable housing was seen as driving young people away from their extended family and leading to a lessening in community cohesion. Incomers were generally commuters to areas outside Pendle. This was seen as another instance of the neglect of rural life by the authorities in Pendle.

Age Divisions

These tended to surface in the break-up of story families - teenagers leaving home because they did not get on with their parents and so on. Age division seemed particularly strong in the Asian community connected with differing stages of assimilation in UK culture and the adoption / understanding of English.

Rural Distrust

The greatest distrust that surfaced in the storytelling was between rural and urban dwellers. Rural areas felt unfairly treated and neglected when it came to the allocation of resources. The lack of affordable housing in villages was a factor in the progress of younger rural characters. Changes in village life were noted as commuters replaced rural workers.

6.3 OPPORTUNITIES

Educational Opportunity

The stories were full of references to the role of education in the development of a personality. These ranged from characters that did not do well at school and continued not to do well in later life - to characters whose lives were transformed for the better through education. One common element in many stories was the change between primary and secondary education. In particular this was cited in rural areas in relation to meeting people from different cultures (in primary school everybody from the same culture - in secondary school meeting people from Asian and other backgrounds). In general the change from primary to secondary is cited as major. The old personal ties with teachers diminish, the hormones kick in and pop culture takes over from parental influence. These observations in the stories bear out other work we have done with children which indicate the trauma of this transition.

This was the point at which many of the characters would "get into bad company" or "go off the rails" in secondary school. Interestingly many of those who did were saved by some charismatic intervention - a teacher or close relative. Sport was often cited as having a role to play in this. These tales spanned both cultures, all age groups gender and location.

Expectations for the future of characters tended to be high amongst school pupils but lower in other age groups. This correlates with the finding from the survey that only 47 % of young people saw

their future in Pendle (i.e. that leaving Pendle will provide more opportunity in life).

Equality in the Workplace

A number of the conversations around the character creation focused on workplace equality and the difficulty of having "natural" conversations with people from different ethnic groups. There was no problem between work colleagues although specific incidents may occur - mostly racist remarks between members of the same ethnic group. Most people assumed that age, ethnic origin, gender were irrelevant to workplace relations unless they in some way harmed that person's ability to do the job.

There was more difficulty in handling contacts with the general public. The problems seemed to revolve around a feeling of constantly being on guard in case words used might be found offensive or "non-PC". This could inhibit discourse and cause discomfort. Like "walking on eggshells" as one respondent said.

Some of the stories (particularly by Asian women) cited insensitive treatment by officials as cause for distress.

Links between Communities

The role of language was touched on in those stories rooted in the Asian community. This was particularly linked to age and gender. The older generation of Pakistanis saw their stay in the UK as temporary. Often, interactions in the workplace (usually the mill) were handled by others who spoke English. They generally expected to return to Gujarat. Middle aged Pakistanis seem to have one foot in Pakistan and the other in the UK. Committed to staying here but making regular visits to Pakistan for weddings and other special occasions, their home language is Punjabi but with a command of English for use outside the home environment. Teenage and young adult Pakistanis will probably have been born in the UK (Burnley General Hospital was the most popular birth place of all characters from all communities) and are Brits in outlook and interest. Many have a hard time reconciling this cultural transition.

In urban areas, links between communities of different ethnic origin were cited as public facilities and shops as well as organisations and projects but few of these seemed central to the development of a story character. Rural areas tended to emphasise the differences between themselves and urban communities. Links tended to be through secondary school and a common tale was the shock of a rural child entering a school and having to make friends with other pupils from different localities and cultures.

Tolerance

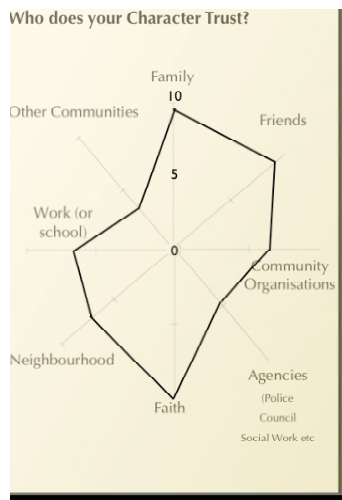
The literature on community cohesion is replete with references to "a more tolerant society" and "fostering toleration for different cultures" and so on. This is universal virtue with which few would disagree. But there is another side to a live-and-let-live attitude. "Tolerance of bad behaviour" and "not getting involved" are only a step from each other. Some police forces are talking of "zero tolerance"

towards anti-social behaviour. This concept is thus a "double edged sword".

Regeneration

Regeneration issues and community cohesion are intertwined. Regeneration is about producing balanced, sustainable communities. Yet often the process of regeneration, because of its emphasis on the physical environment and the increasing focus on Housing Market Renewal (HMR), can miss the human consequences of the separation of extended families and the consequent effects on a community's support system for children and mothers. These networks are precisely what community cohesion is trying to build.

6.4 TRUST



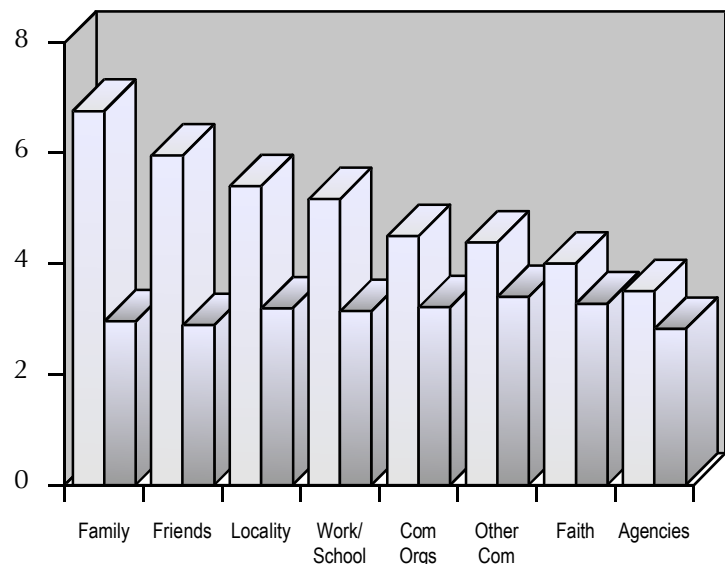
Polar diagramme used to score degrees of trust held by the characters

In the chart on the right urban dwellers of all communities showed a more complex response when asked if they would report a racist incident. 35% said they would, 25% said they would not, 36% said that it depends on the severity of the incident (a stabbing or a beating would be reported, abuse would probably be ignored), 4% said they would sort it themselves. 95% of rural dwellers, on the other hand, said they would report an racist incident.

Each group which undertook the storytelling exercise completed a "polar diagram" (see left) which scored the question "Who does your character trust?" The resultant diagram gave the character a "shape" that could be contrasted with other groups' characters and used to encourage discussion on trust and who might have helped the character to behave differently. (see Appendix 4 for enlarged diagram example).

The results of all the storytelling workshops' polar diagrams are shown in the graph below. This indicates the ranking of the most trusted on the left and least trusted on the right represented by the light columns which show the average scores (between 1 and 10) across all workshop groups. The darker columns indicate the degree of disagreement across all workshop groups as to the scoring of that element.

Degrees of Trust and Agreement



The implications of this are:

- Family, Friends and Locality are most trusted and this is evident across all communities and age groups. These are the elements of the "parallel lives" referred to by Cantle. People tend to stick with their own communities in their own areas. Locality may be defined as a general area or more often as a few streets around where a person lives.
- Agencies, Faith and Other Communities were the least trusted. These are the elements that tend to be stressed when action on cohesion is proposed. The above results indicate that other channels for action should be developed in addition.
- The greatest disagreement over who to trust was shared by Faith and Other Communities
- The greatest agreement over who to trust was shared by Family and Friends (trusted) and Agencies (not trusted).

We must emphasise that poles often achieved a low score because participants had little or no experience of that element. Most people will not, for instance, have close links or regular experience of the Agencies. The Police, the Local Authority, and so on will impinge infrequently on people's daily lives. The Police for instance will say that they spend 80% of their time dealing with 20% of the local population. Similarly, few people had close contact with Other Communities and by this meant communities living in areas other than their own.

6.5 ISSUES WORKSHOPS

The issues generated by the storytelling were used to generate two further workshops:

- a workshop in Brierfield to which various agency representatives were invited together with people who had taken part in the process. The audience was predominantly agency based. (see attendance list in Appendix 2)
- a workshop organised in Pendle Borough Council and attended by representatives of various departments

The issues were given as a set of cards to each workshop group (over the two workshops 5 workshop groups were formed). Participants were asked to rank the issues in terms of how important they thought they were to community cohesion in Pendle and to indicate the timescale of action to improve community cohesion in that issue area (Short, Medium Long)

The placing of the cards across all groups is shown overleaf. The results indicate the priority given to the various issues (extreme right column - high number indicates high priority) The figures in other columns (and the colour of the cell) indicate the number of groups that placed this issue in that priority or timescale "slot" - showing the degree of agreement.

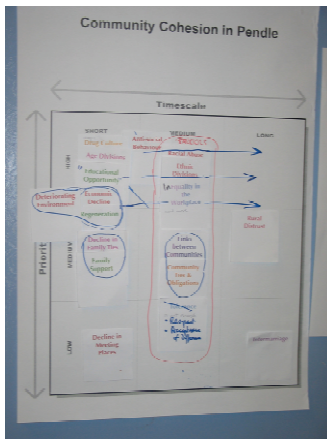
Thus "Links between Communities" was given a priority score of 12. Two groups indicated that action should be taken on this issue

Community Cohesion in Pendle



Issues and Priorities session in Brierfield

Priority and timescale - results of group session



in the short-term, while three groups indicated action in the medium-term. Similarly two groups indicated that it had a high priority while three gave it a medium priority. Weighting the priorities (a high priority placement multiplies the number of groups by 3, a medium placement by 2. A low placement is unaltered). The resulting score is shown in right hand column.

Placing of Issue Cards

Issue	Timescale			Priority			Weighted Priority
	Short	Med	Long	High	Med	Low	
Racial abuse	4	1		5			15
Anti-social behaviour	4	1		5			15
Economic decline	1		4	5			15
Deteriorating environment	1	1	3	4	1		14
Regeneration	2		3	4	1		14
Ethnic division	1	4		4	1		14
Drug culture	3		2	4	1		14
Educational opportunity	2	2	1	3	2		13
Equality in the Workplace	1	3	1	4		1	13
Links between communities	2	3		2	3		12
Tolerance	1	3	1	3	1	1	12
Family support	2	3		2	3		12
Age division	2	2	1	2	3		12
Decline in family ties	2	2	1	1	3	1	10
Rural distrust		2	3		3	2	8
Community ties & obligations		4	1		3	2	8
Decline in meeting places	2	1	2		2	3	7
Intermarriage			5			5	5

7 Creating a Common Civic Identity

So what does the foregoing tell us about cohesion in general and the situation in Pendle in particular?

7.1 DIVERSITY, COHESION AND FAIRNESS

In many of the reports about the disturbances in Northern towns the concept of a shared civic identity is cited as desirable and the lack of this as one of main reasons for the breakdown in community harmony.

This brings us to the consideration of the relationship between diversity and cohesion. A recent article by David Goodhart¹⁰ in Prospect magazine asked whether Britain is becoming too diverse to sustain the mutual obligations that contribute to a good society and the welfare state. The author argues that with rising diversity, individualism and mobility we spend more time among strangers which leads to a reduction of commonly held values. He goes on to state that sharing and solidarity can conflict with diversity in the sense that strong intra-community ties will often inhibit the formation of inter-community links.

In Pendle, we found the strongest antipathy was not between people of Asian and British heritage but between those living in the rural areas and in the urban settlements of Nelson, Brierfield and (to a lesser extent) Colne. This alienation certainly has a racial dimension, but this should not be overestimated. Racial prejudices and tensions were sometimes being mapped onto the urban-rural split. We mentioned funding as the main reason that causes frustration amongst rural people. The relative wealth of the rural population is seen as a reason to withhold funding from the rural areas. However, service deterioration due to a lack of a critical population mass has, they feel, failed to receive serious consideration.

The Pendle Community REAL (Rural Evaluation and Action for Lancashire) Study, conducted in 2003, has made an attempt to fill the gap by consulting villagers from Earby, Barley, Goldshaw Booth, Kelbrook and Sough, Laneshaw Bridge and Salterforth to find out more about shortcomings in the rural areas. The consultation was welcomed by most of the rural population since it made an attempt to draw attention to their needs. Provision of IT facilities in village halls or rural community centres is one of the positive outcomes of the REAL study. However, consistency is important to build up the trust of the rural population. More has to be done to overcome the segregation of urban and rural. Urban areas have to attract rural people for shopping and recreating so that divisions will be diminished. Many rural people told us that they prefer going to other rural centres for shopping and relaxing than going to Nelson, Brierfield or Colne. This stemmed from a perception that services and shops there only cater for less affluent, non-

¹⁰ David Goodhart (Feb 2004) : Too diverse? Prospect Magazine, Issue 95, http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/ArticleView.asp?P_Article=12394

white customers. Weekly farmer's markets or cultural events that celebrate the rural part of Pendle would certainly help bring urban and rural communities closer together. Conversely, local groups could invite speakers from other ethnic backgrounds to learn about their culture and lifestyle. Asian cookery courses for instance have been a successful tool in bringing the Pakistani culture closer to the white population.

Interviews in rural areas indicate that there is little overt hostility against the Asian community *per se* since the "Pakistani shop-keeper around the corner" is often seen as part of the community. However, the high percentage of Asians in the urban communities can often be intimidating.

It is essential that rural people get an insight into the lives of "the others" in various ways and through various channels and that urban dwellers appreciate the issues faced in the country. The media have an important part to play in this.

The Community Cohesion Plan cites "mythbusting" as a strategy. However, many of the divisive issues are not myths but are rooted in real matters of resource allocation and prioritisation of need. Powerful headlines that lack the essential information and explanation of these issues are often damaging to community cohesion because they contribute little to the real understanding of why things happen. An efficient and effective communication strategy is required. To be fair, the press in Pendle is generally sensitive to these issues.

Recently John Denham, the minister responsible at the time of the Bradford, Oldham and Burnley disturbances, has written of the shifting balance between contribution and need in the UK. In a recent article he describes the sense of unfairness in his own constituency at the way that long term contributors to the state (tax-payers, ratepayers etc.) no longer see a return on their contributions (in terms of pensions, housing provision, public services and so on). On the other hand those seen as newly arrived and who have not contributed over the years are seen to be benefiting unduly from state and local authority funding. Long term contribution is perceived to be replaced by short term need as a criterion for resource allocation and to some people this seems unfair. Many of the complaints that people have about the authorities and the services they provide are rooted in this "fairness agenda".

Thus in trying to create more cohesive communities while retaining diversity and cultural vitality we have to find a way of justifying actions in terms of fairness and justice.

7.2 PLACE

There is a danger that in examining cohesion and threatening behaviour, we ignore the role that place has to play. In other work we have explored the way that places "licence" particular behaviours. A town centre at night for instance may be recognised as a place where aggressive and insulting behaviour amongst particular groups is accepted - and left for the police to sort out.



Nelson Town Centre



Community facility in Colne

Brierfield, for instance, is often dominated in the evenings by large groups of young Asian males sometimes over 50 strong. This can seem threatening to the white, and particularly elderly, population.

This is compounded by the feeling expressed by some in the Asian community that they are losing control of their children as teenagers become influenced by UK culture and habits. This can lead to the lessening of the traditional control of the family and community leaders and the consequent "licensing" of public spaces for behaviour not acceptable within the community.

This is where the potential for trouble lies between the communities and it is exacerbated by the mobile phone network that can assemble a considerable number of young males on both sides of a real or imagined dispute at fairly short notice (defending Nelson Mosque for example - as happened shortly after the Burnley disturbances). The volatility created by the speed and spread of modern communications (texting, mobile phone, internet) should not be underestimated. This can pose problems for police and community leaders in responding to and calming potential trouble.

Paradoxically, the greater proportion of Asians in Pendle may be a factor in creating greater community cohesion. In places like Brierfield and Nelson there is common use of the town centre and 55% of Pendle people say they have their greatest contact with other cultures in local shops (BVPI survey). Nelson town centre in particular, with its interconnected squares and frequent occurrence of organisations serving the needs of both communities, reinforces informal and chance contacts. Colne, Barnoldswick Earby and other more rural settlements on the other hand have only small ethnic minority populations and therefore less occasion for informal encounter.

7.3 POLICING

In many respects, the operational experience of the police reinforces our general findings. Unfortunately, a study of the local effectiveness of Home Office community cohesion criteria planned by the police during the term of our study, was abandoned through lack of funding.

The actions of the Police are governed by the definition of "hate crime" introduced by Sir William Macpherson in his report on the death of Stephen Lawrence¹¹. Hate crime applies to racist, homophobic and domestic violence. This is a useful administrative device, as the same police skills are needed to tackle sensitive issues such as racial abuse or violence, homophobia and domestic violence. The catch-all definition is perhaps less useful to complainants as it carries no distinction between the different levels of severity and leaves the public to decide if it is severe enough to

¹¹ Sir William Macpherson, *The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry: Report of an Inquiry by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny* (Cm 4262-1), London: The Stationery Office, 1999

report. This confusion is backed up by the study by Lancaster University of the racial attitudes of under 25s in Lancashire¹².

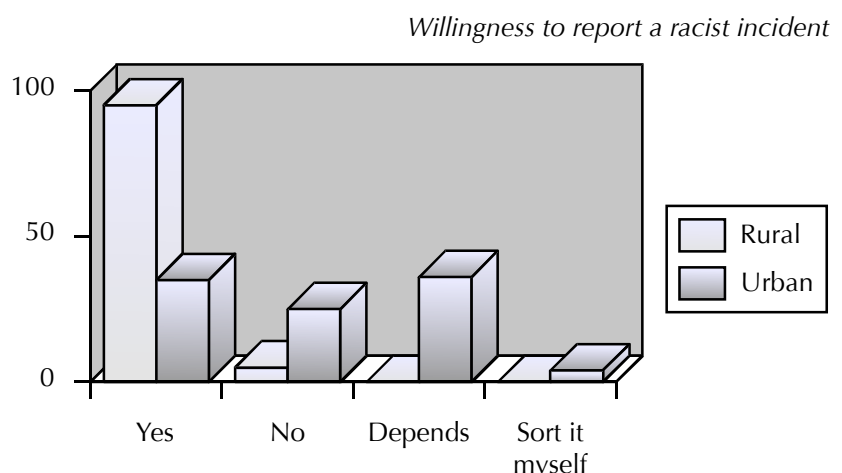
The "Macpherson definition" states that a racist incident occurs if the incident is *perceived* to be racist by the victim or any other person.

Although there is an (increasing) public perception that racial abuse and violence is on the increase, the Police feel that:

- Their own figures do not justify this perception
- The recent establishment of a hate crime unit has led to the making and recording of more complaints. This "bounce" is expected to settle back into a more realistic figure.
- The Lancashire force was one of the UK pioneers of "problem oriented policing" - attempting to tackle the cause of crime before it happens. The recent increase in community policing and in the gathering of local intelligence through community contacts is deemed to be a success.
- There has been little integration between the warden system adopted by Pendle and the system of community policing.

In the recent Pendle Best Value Practice Indicator survey, 20% of those interviewed thought that race relations in the Borough needed improving, while only 8% saw race relations as a factor which made Pendle a good place to live. Almost 50% of interviewees thought that race relations had got worse over the past year. Yet this must be set against a picture in which racist hate crime forms only a small proportion of incidents reported to the police.

The questionnaire that accompanied the storytelling sessions (see Appendix 6) tried to identify the willingness of respondents to report a racist incident. The results were markedly different in rural and urban areas. In rural areas (including Colne) 95% of respondents said they would report such an incident and would report it to the police. In urban areas the response was more complex as shown below.



¹² "Racism among under 25's in Pennine Division" - A Research Report for Lancashire Constabulary by Dr. Cheryl Simmill-Binning, Professor David Smythe and Dr. Ian Paylor, University of Lancaster, 2003

37% of urban residents would only report an incident if it was severe enough ("Depends"). Usually, the threshold for reporting was held to be a beating or a stabbing, with more "minor" incidents left unreported.

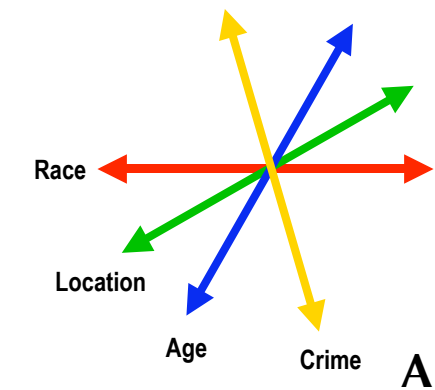
7.4 BROKEN BRIDGES

Our experience in other divided communities (Northern Ireland for instance) sounds a warning about the permanence of bridging organisations. Before 1968 Northern Ireland was experiencing a slow move towards the integration of previously divided communities. The IRA was sidelined and there was little overt trouble. Although the "parallel lives" cited by Cantle existed, there seemed to many observers to be a general lessening of tension between Catholics and Protestants. Then Protestant reaction towards the Civil Rights movement culminated an attack on a peaceful march by the largely Protestant police force at Burntollet Bridge in which many marchers were hurt. This was followed by violent attacks on Catholic areas by Protestant mobs and the rapid polarisation of the communities. Trust was transferred from institutions and agencies to Family, Friends and Locality. The "bridges" between communities collapsed and were replaced by traditional loyalties.

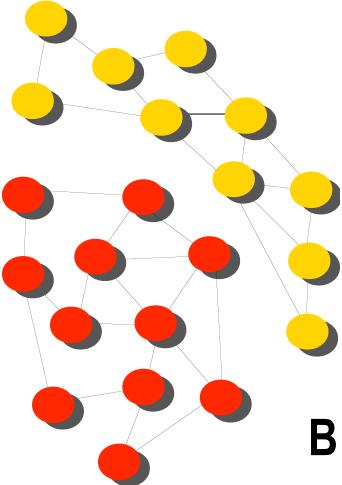
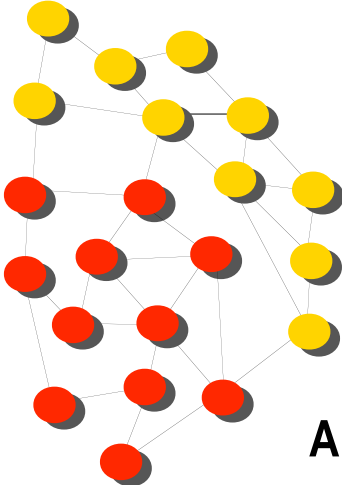
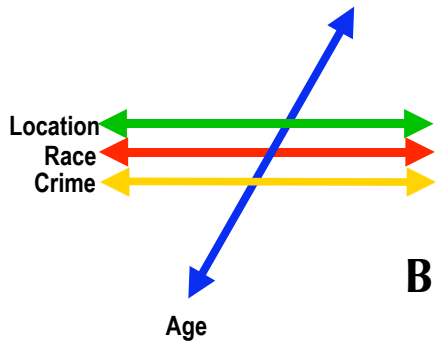
Pendle must take care to preserve the existing links between communities and to continue building bridges.

The diagrams overleaf indicate the vulnerability of links. In A the two "communities" appear well linked. In B the removal of only 3 links has completely isolated one community from another. In this example, the original degree of connection is 17%. Cutting this to just over 15% has disconnected the communities. Thus it's not the *degree* of connection that is important - it's the centrality of the removed links.

Vulnerability of links



In A the various issues are seen as separate and unconnected. In B, issues have become "aligned" - i.e. seen as connected and consequent on each other. This is the source of negative perceptions.



7.5 ALIGNMENT

One concept that may help to pave the way to successful policies for cohesion is that of "alignment". An issue on its own (village decline, anti-social behaviour, drugs etc.) will not produce the sudden breakdown in cohesion that occurred in Bradford, Burnley and Oldham. It's alignment with other negative issues may. The task of agency programmes and communications should be to prevent this happening.

Of course some issues may actually *be* aligned and not just a mistaken or prejudiced public perception. It *may* be easier for projects in urban areas with a cross cultural purpose to get funding than it is for rural projects or projects in all white areas. Those who wish to make political capital can argue (as the BNP has done) that rural areas and largely white peripheral estates are unfairly treated and that central urban areas (and by implication those with a large and more recently established Asian population) are unfairly benefiting.

Alignments to monitor would be:

- the association of ethnic origin with various sorts of crime. For instance crimes by Asians against whites will occur - indeed it would be statistically odd if they did not. Such crimes may achieve undue prominence in the press or in local rumour. The Nelson Leader already questions whether it should mention ethnic origin in such reporting for this reason.
- the undue association of locality origin with crime or anti-social behaviour. Of course there will be areas where these elements are higher but that association may have nothing to do with the behaviour itself. Again locality origin should only be mentioned if it is relevant.
- the undue association of age (particularly young people) with anti-social behaviour.

8 Getting the Message Out

This study has developed four sets of data: stories, indicators, a map of linkages, and listings of who is doing what. Together they provide a baseline of where things are now. This section examines what communication and development may be necessary to update the data, and to realise its value in the longer term.

The underlying approach is that all the techniques in the study were designed in the spirit of the community cohesion agenda - they are intended to be inclusive. The aim is that anyone can contribute material, anyone can understand what is happening, and anyone can use the techniques for themselves.

However, the inclusive value of the techniques, and the content gathered so far, will only be fully realised if they are made more widely available as a kit. In addition the results from further use of the kit will have to be gathered, analysed and exchanged. If the content is to help stimulate and inform discussion, someone must facilitate those conversations. Here's what might be involved for each technique and set of data, and overall.

8.1 STORIES

The stories show how informal narrative can give insights into attitudes and local culture that might not be available through quantitative research. The material is widely accessible because it is the stuff of day-to-day conversation. We have shown that the technique can be used by non-experts.

Continuing communications might involve:

- making the stories available publicly in a form that helps stimulate discussion of community cohesion issues (see companion volume of stories)
- promoting the story-telling kit to gather more stories
- using the fictional story-telling as a way to encourage 'for real' stories of people's lives and expectations
- offering the technique to other community cohesion pathfinders to demonstrate Pendle's innovative approach, and perhaps to gather comparative information from elsewhere.

8.2 INDICATORS

The polar scores (see 6.4) are a method of extracting more quantitative data from the narrative of the stories. Continuing communications might involve:

- publishing the results, and integrating findings with other work
- applying the same technique to attract easily-understood findings from other survey material. Again this could be done by making the 'kit' available.
- using the scores as a focus for agency and group discussion

8.3 MAPPING

The map shows the overall current system of communications and working relationships. Continuing communications might involve:

- publishing the map so that organisations can make any additions, and also use it to make new connections
- disseminating the map within key agencies so they can review where there may be gaps or opportunities
- using the map as a basis for thinking about how to improve day-to-day information flows around the 'system'

8.4 PROJECTS

The listings provide a snapshot of projects that different organisations are undertaking. Continuing communications might involve:

- updating content so that organisations can continue to use the listings to identify potential collaborators
- the map can be linked to the listings, for example making it 'clickable' online

8.5 SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS

- Publish the study in print and online, with permission for people to use content freely with appropriate attribution.
- Make the kit available as a do-it-yourself package. This could be in print, and as an online download.
- Tell the story of how the kit was developed and used, and promote to other community cohesion pathfinders.
- Explore the scope for 'real' storytelling, perhaps drawing on digital storytelling methods by which people can use their own photographs and recording.
- Publish the dynamic map online so that clicking on an organisation will lead through to a page providing the profile, projects and contact details. Provide the facility for organisations to update their own information online.
- Build and strengthen the network shown on the map. For example, consider - where necessary - how information flows could be improved. Run workshops to take forward the ideas above - and develop more ideas.
- Create a network hub - an online place for updates on the programme, downloading the kit, accessing and updating the map, discussing issues. This might be an existing web site, a new site linked to existing sites, or a number of linked sites.
- Make the network hub one of a mix of communication methods - print, phone, face-to-face, online.

8.6 MAKING IT HAPPEN

Technically there are many ways in which the above suggestions could be put into practice, ideally linked to the Pendle Portal where online work is involved. However, our experience is that success depends on people and relationships first, ideas and technology second.

The most crucial elements are:

- Leadership.

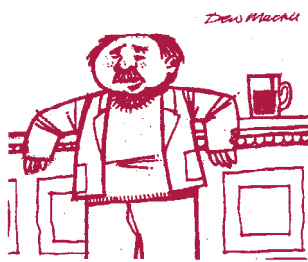
Someone has to take ownership of the communication and development programme and drive it forward, with the necessary resources.

- Co-design.

Commitment stems from a sense of ownership - so those involved in further storytelling, updating and discussion should be involved in development of the programme.

- Networking.

Updating will be impossible as a purely centralised task. Useful conversations need to flow along the many linkages shown on the map. Organisations need to be 'self-starters' in using and developing the kit.



Mark Miwards (above) and Bessie Blether
- characters used to correct misinformation
in projects in Lincolnshire and Perth.



8.7 NEXT STEPS

The key issue is whether to treat further development and communication as a centralised task, or one undertaken collaboratively by the network identified in the map. We suggest strongly that as networked approach is appropriate because:

- it is in the spirit of community cohesion to promote collaboration, and to foster dispersed communications between all groups, rather than centrally produced "broadcasts".
- the spread of issues and complexity of work makes it unlikely that centralised updating and development is feasible.

If the need for a networked approach is accepted, we suggest a co-design workshop with core members of the network to review the suggestions in this report, and to plan next steps. Prior work will be needed to agree resources potentially available, and possible leadership.

8.8 HEALTH WARNING

It may be tempting to take the idea of an online network hub - outlined above - and make development of that a first priority to provide a shop window for the work, and (apparently) deal with communication issues. We would caution against that without a co-design workshop, clear leadership, and a mix of other communication methods. Creating an online place is relatively easy. Populating and updating it is much more difficult, unless key users are involved from the start.

ACTIONS

The chart below shows the key actions that might be taken to promote community cohesion in Pendle. These revolve around the general titles of Alignments, Sustainability and Connections. Within each category, actions are divided into Internal (to do with the internal actions of the key agencies and groups) and External (concerning the actions to be taken to promote and sustain cohesion throughout the community of Pendle). Actions are also listed as those to be taken in the short term and those to be developed continuously.

Issues & Aims		Short Term	Continuing
Alignments "Prevent divisive issue coming together in the public mind"	Int	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve the media - campaign based on cartoons/ information Agencies / Groups to agree the analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep media involved Monitor initiatives and outcomes
	Ext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign - define audiences and media channels Exchange stories (penpals?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolve communications Tackle real divisive issues of resource allocation
Sustainability "Ensure that network of agencies and groups maintains and improves its delivery activities over time"	Int	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the real value of the network. Investigate how to keep the net and its parts in being (funding / mainstreaming) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move to mainstream activities - not just agencies
	Ext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote connectivity of network and ensure that it is perceived as responsive. Promote joint working and sharing admin and other resources - "big brothering" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolve the net - information on how it works Early warning system for groups in trouble
Connections "Improve the connections within the network and between the network and local communities"	Int	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vary meeting styles - encourage joint working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen key connections Exchange stories
	Ext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicise & maintain map & routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information of change & achievements Stories of success

8.9 CONSEQUENCES OF LOW AGENCY PROFILE

Myth busting will not necessarily be achieved through agency statements or publications. This information may be seen as partisan and may only reach a limited audience. Thus, the Community Cohesion Pledge which many individuals and local groups have signed up to is good as a sign of intention but may be less effective in moving people's opinions.

We need to look at working through communications that reach the family, friends and locality. Thus the local newspapers (of which Pendle seems to have many) and local radio may be effective channels for myth busting - but the problem will be to make community cohesion interesting. As we have noted one of the problems of community cohesion as a subject is its seriousness and the feeling of "walking on eggshells" when interacting with or writing about people from the opposite sides of cultural divides.

In other work, we have used cartoon characters to debunk local myths. These are usually rather pompous know all characters that state the myth as if it is fact and can then be corrected (Mark Mywards in Lincoln, Bessie Blether in Scotland) - the names will have to suit the audience. These have been used in local and community newspapers to stop the spread of unfounded rumour. A cohesion card game could be devised to pair erroneous statements made by cartoon characters with their rebuttals

Schools and schoolchildren can also be used to transmit the myth busting exercises through the children to their parents and extended family.

The most difficult perceptions to dispel will be those with a substantial grounding in fact. Thus the rural perception that poor areas (and areas with substantial Asian populations) get the lion's share of funding and attention is probably true and reflects government priorities and the identification of need. The challenge here will be to portray why this is happening and why it is *fair*.

8.10 THE PRESS

We have approached the Nelson Leader (incorporating the Colne Times and earby and Barnoldswick Times) which has wide coverage throughout Pendle. Although wary of "race issues", they would be happy to become involved in a campaign for community cohesion. This might take two forms:

- running a version of the storytelling exercise and a short questionnaire. This would be given some prominence and would involve cash prizes for the best stories.
- giving continuing coverage to cohesion issues and in particular to the "myth busting" initiatives

Effectively the newspaper could be used a bridge between the study and continuing work on cohesion over the next year or so.

9 Pendle Community Cohesion Action Plan

So how do the results and suggestions for action support Pendle's Community Cohesion Action Plan?

The study will contribute in a number of ways to the "overarching themes" of the Plan:

- Overarching theme 2 - establishing a baseline.

The study will contribute the qualitative data to complement the more quantitative materials coming in from other sources. This will help to build a richer baseline. The techniques (mapping and storytelling) that have been used to produce the data can be used to assess the shifts in the baseline over time.

- Overarching Theme 3 - capacity building

The training already undertaken with schools and community groups can be extended. The storytelling sourcebook that accompanies this report can be used as a training resource.

- Overarching Theme 3 - media compact

The report's suggestions that any campaign should concentrate on communicating the messages to Family, Friends and Localities lends itself to using media channels. Thus the ideas of using cartoons to promote mythbusting or fairness messages are already being pursued through the local press.

The report also contributes to Plan priorities adding the qualitative aspect to **information gathering** in:

- showing the impact of other issues on cohesion (alignment)
- prioritising issues
- indicating channels for promoting a shared vision through humour and mythbusting (cartoons)
- using storytelling to improve self-identity, and assessing the possible fragmentation between various parts of the Pendle community
- storytelling could also be used to encourage cross cultural activities through events

Groups who have trained in storytelling have **built capacity** and can now use this technique with their own communities independent of consultancy support.

The report contributes ideas on the formation of a **communications strategy** to get the messages out and involve local organisations and media in challenging misconceptions.

Young people have been involved in many of the sessions in **schools** and in other groups. Storytelling now adopted within schools curricula can be monitored to note shifts in perception or attitude. Storytelling gives the opportunity for young people from

different backgrounds to interact. Training in storytelling allows agencies to share good practice.

Health groups have used the stories to discuss their interaction with their customers.

The recognition of the value of the network and **partnership working** is also strongly expressed in this report.

Thus both the results of the report and the techniques used to complete it can be used to support the Community Cohesion Action Plan.

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Appendix 1

ORGANISATION PROFILES & PROJECTS

Age Concern Lancashire

Age Concern Lancashire aims to help over 55s to stay independent for as long as possible. There are currently different community cohesion programmes:

- **Active Age:** Encouragement of older people to remain active through taking part in a range of interest groups which range from local history to painting.
- **Carers:** Support of carers in many districts enabling them to have a well earned break or time to chat to people in similar situations.
- **Day Care Services:** Community based day care services are run from venues in most of the local districts. Transport is provided.
- **Hospital After Care Services:** Provides crisis support and short term follow up service for older people who have been discharged from hospital. Home support staff help settle people in at home.
- **Information and Advice:** Personal information service for older people and their carers.
- **Old Pendle's Forum:** Gives older people the opportunity to discuss and influence issues regionally.
- **Social, Leisure and Educational Opportunities:** Outreach officers set up local activities. These include lunches, social clubs, computer classes and outings.
- **Visiting and Befriending:** There are Visiting and Caring Neighbourhood Schemes run by volunteering visitors.

AgeConcern Pendle focuses on the rural communities of Salterforth, Kelbrook, Earby, Barnoldswick, Foulridge, Higham, Roughley and Trawden. Events mostly take place in village halls, community centres or churches.

Blackburn Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility

The diocese was formed in 1926. The church is a cooperative society that exists also for the benefit of its non-members. There is thus work with homeless people, families under pressure and many other disadvantaged individuals in society. The diocese has specialised Chaplains working in Hospitals, Hospices, Prisons and with special needs groups such as those who are deaf.

Recently, the Board for Social Responsibility has organised the "Thinking Green" campaign which explores the "greener" side of communities with theological input and an opportunity to take part in practical workshops on subjects such as Living Church-

yards, Ground Force, Health, Bio-diversity, Re-think. Such events combine community projects with community cohesion aspects.

Brierfield Action in the Community

Brierfield Action in the Community is an organisation that delivers three main community cohesion services: a Cyber Cafe, history and museum projects as well as environmental work.

1) the Brierfield Cyber Café

The aim of the project is:

- to provide much needed access to ICT facilities for a community in need.
- Provide specialist support local people to use the equipment and gain the fullest benefit from the resources
- Establish specific sessions for all groups in the community to ensure that every one has an equal opportunity to use the facilities.
- Opportunities will be created for volunteers, volunteers will be trained to act as mentors to users of the site.
- Sessional workers will be employed to work with the project manager , volunteers and users of the café.
- A family room is being developed, with support from Sure Start (Brierfield and Walverden)

2) History and museum projects that focus on the oral history of Pendle. The programme has been developed in cooperation with Mid-Pennine Arts.

3) Environmental work, a project that is currently developed.

Building Bridges

For more than 10 years, Building Bridges has operated as an interface agency which aims to promote better understanding and strengthen relationships between people of differing faiths and cultures. A major project is cohesion work carried out in Pendle's schools. Here Building Bridges works with the class teacher to deliver elements of the personal, social and health education and citizenship curriculum dealing with racism, bullying, prejudice, diversity, social cohesion and acceptance. A total of 1,300 young people are involved in the programme each year and around 60 per cent of the schools in Pendle take part. Other programmes include discussion groups, talks, storytelling events and other inter-faith community activities.

Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)

CVS is a local development agency which exists to develop, support and promote voluntary action and charitable activity. The organisation specialises in

- Provision of support services to groups such as training, information, advice, payroll and office functions including access to sources of funding, governance and constitutional advice;
- Identification of gaps in the provision of services and development of initiatives through contact with individuals and groups
- Joining up of voluntary, community and faith organisations to discuss issues of common concern to avoid duplication and foster information sharing
- Dissemination of information about statutory service provision and development;
- Representation of the views of the voluntary sector on many statutory led committees;
- Engagement in strategic partnership activity

Current Community Cohesion Projects include:

- Young Carers Contact: The project focuses particularly on young carers who can choose from a packet of direct support services, ranging from one-to-one support, group sessions, respite activities, residential as well as advocacy and liaising on their behalf.
- Carers Contact: The project provides support and information to Carers in the community throughout Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale. This includes giving advice, helping to set up new Support Groups as well as supporting existing ones, provision of newsletters, representation, setting up of carer's forums and special events.
- Mental Health Carers: The project supports a "Carers Panel" enabling carers to meet with those who provide services; it works with those carers who represent their fellow-carers on planning and implementation bodies;
- Learning Disabilities Carers: The project helps develop and support a Carers Network.
- East Lancashire Together: CVS is the accountable body for community cohesion grants for voluntary, community and faith groups in the period to September 2004.
- New Opportunities Fund Fair Share Trust: CVS is the local agent for the Pendle initiative which is a long term project to improve cohesion in the areas of health, education and the environment in Marsden, Walverden and Southfield wards. A local panel has been set up to oversee the initiative and commission projects.

Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Primary Care Trust

The Primary Care Trust is an independent statutory organisation that is responsible for improving the health care of the local population. The Primary Care Trust assesses the health needs of the local population and works to meet those needs within the resources made available to them by the government. Burnley,

Pendle & Rossendale Primary Care Trust was established on 1st April 2002 and brought together staff, facilities and services from a number of NHS organisations: the East Lancashire Health Authority, Burnley Primary Care Group, Pendle Primary Care Group, Rossendale Primary Care Group, Burnley Health Care Trust and the CommuniCare NHS Trust.

Burnley College

Burnley College aims to assure comprehensive lifelong education and training to excellent standards.

The College offers a range of programmes from basic to higher level and commits itself to serve all groups of local people equally including school leavers, employers and employees, and the wider community, to promote high achievement levels, to make learning increasingly flexible and accessible and to work in partnership with other organizations.

Race equality is an essential aspect of the College's equal opportunities work. Internal and external customers are covered by the Race Equality Policy. Race equality actions will be incorporated in the College Strategic Plan, Self Assessment Report, Development Plan and Equal Opportunities Plan as appropriate.

Caring Today

Caring Today is a programme for children between the age of 5 and 13. The project delivers play activities for children with disabilities which are available at weekends. The scheme works with the families during the week and in addition offers advocacy services.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid, established in 1945 as Christian Reconciliation in Europe, is an agency that commits to the following issues:

- To tackle poverty to promote the dignity and basic rights of every person
- to provide resources that enable poor people to improve their quality of life
- to work with poor and marginalised communities who are struggling for justice and to support them as they tell their stories
- to empower people to reform the systems that keep them poor
- to take the risks and ask the questions that spotlight the causes of poverty
- to engage young and old, poor and rich in a global movement that changes the course of history
- to work with our partners in the Church, and those of other faiths and beliefs who side with the poor

- to be inspired by the Gospel of good news to the poor, which promises a fulfilling life for all and the hope of a new earth.

Coldwell Activity Centre

Coldwell Activity Centre is a facility that provides group holidays and offers small conference facilities as well as training days. The Centre specialises in providing holidays for young people, and caters specifically for those with disabilities or those who come from a disadvantaged background. Young people under the supervision of the Lancashire Probation Service assist the work.

The Centre draws special attention to community cohesion issues by providing the following benefits to visitors:

- opportunity of integration for young people from different backgrounds and cultures
- gaining an understanding and learning how to combat discrimination and prejudice
- an opportunity to work together to bring about change
- engagement of younger members of society and not just community leaders
- a platform to openly discuss matters which are of concern
- learning how to be transparent in all communication
- enabling young people to get the message to parents
- good platform to publicize the events and spread the message
- changing of perceptions about local young people
- personal challenge and development opportunities
- enabling access to residential experiences for groups
- developing basic and key transferable skills
- divert participants from being involved in unsociable or criminal acts and
- decision making

Community Economic Development Partnerships (CEDs)

Brierfield Community Economic Development Partnership

In 1998, Pendle Partnership submitted a bid to obtain funding for a local Community Economic Development (CED) programme to operate in Pendle's priority wards. The programme started in spring 1999.

Major programmes of the CED in general and in Brierfield include:

- Project development and capacity building support from the CED support team
- Employment support initiatives in Brierfield and Colne

Community Cohesion in Pendle

- Training programmes funded by European Social Fund (ESF) in Brierfield, Colne and Nelson
- IT development and training
- The Peace Garden in Brierfield
- ITHAAD Translation and Interpretation Unit, and
- Community-led environmental work and cultural/arts work in Brierfield and Nelson

Colne Community Economic Development Partnership

In 1998, Pendle Partnership submitted a bid to obtain funding for a local Community Economic Development (COED) programme to operate in Pendle's priority wards.

These are the main projects that foster community cohesion that are Pendle wide and specific for the Colne area:

- Project development and capacity building support from the COED support team
- Employment support initiatives in Brierfield and Colne
- Training programmes funded by European Social Fund (ESC) in Brierfield, Colne and Nelson
- Colne and District Credit Union
- Pendle Technology Center (IT development and training)
- Waterbridge COED Resource Center in Colne

Nelson Community Economic Development Partnership

In 1998, Pendle Partnership submitted a bid to obtain funding for a local Community Economic Development (CED) programme to operate in Pendle's priority wards.

It is carrying out the following projects:

- Project development and capacity building support from the CED support team
- Employment support initiatives in Brierfield and Colne
- Training programmes funded by European Social Fund (ESF) in Brierfield, Colne and Nelson
- Pendle Technology Centre (IT development and training)
- St Philip's Family Resource Centre in Nelson
- ITHAAD Translation and Interpretation Unit
- Community-led environmental work and cultural/arts work in Brierfield and Nelson
- The Nelson CED Resource Centre

Community Futures

Community Futures develops and supports balanced and sustainable communities in partnership work with the voluntary, private and public sector. The three main aims are to

- Support and develop voluntary organisations, charitable trusts, parish councils and community based partnerships and organisations;
- Provide information relevant to community activities; and to
- Provide incentives for individuals and groups to become involved in community life.

Community Futures offers the following community cohesion services:

- Enabling and supporting community participation;
- Working with service providers to secure continued access to services such as transport, village shops and post offices;
- Attracting resources to increase activities and sustainability in communities;
- Working with groups to enable them to develop projects;
- Providing secretariat service to the Lancashire Association of Village and Community Halls;
- Organising the countywide Best Kept Village and Community Enterprise competitions;
- Participating in the joint planning of the community care services and the Lancashire Community Care Forum.

The REAL project (Rural Evaluation and Action for Lancashire) has been particularly influential in Pendle's rural communities. The programme helps communities in gathering relevant information about the views and needs of local people to help plan services, resources and provision for the future. In doing so, Community Futures has contributed to cohesion matters through bringing rural communities together as well as providing them with essential facilities.

Connexions

Connexions is a statutory service for young people age 13 to 19. Personal Advisers support youngsters to make important decisions about their life, education and career choices.

The Movin' Up Project is a recent community cohesion project of Lancashire County Council youth and community initiative run in partnership with Connexions. The project targets Year 11 school leavers who have been identified as being 'at risk' of disaffection and who are unsure of their future direction after school.

Credit Unions

A Credit Union is a non-profit making financial Co-operative which offers convenient saving and low interest loan service to its

members. The Credit Union grants local people loans at very low rates of interest. There are Credit Unions in Colne and Nelson.

East Lancs Together (ELT)

ELT is a community cohesion pathfinder that aims to find positive ways of bringing together different communities throughout Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle & Rossendale. It consists of an alliance of local authorities, other public bodies and voluntary & community groups. East Lancs Together has emerged in response to both the Clarke report on the disturbances in Burnley and the Cantle recommendations about developing more cohesive communities.

The aims of ELT are

- to share good practice, promote networking and encourage joint work on community cohesion across the districts of East Lancashire
- to reflect on progress made by the Community Cohesion pathfinder initiative, East Lancs Together
- to encourage voluntary & community groups, public and private sector agencies to sign up to the aims of ELT and join its network
- to hear about the progress made by the projects ELT has funded and
- to get feedback on ELT's plans and priorities for the future.

East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce

The East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce offers businesses a comprehensive range of products and services created to reduce operating costs and contribute to their profitability. These services are available to all businesses irrelevant of size or sector. Chamber Events deliver tailored seminars, exhibitions and Meet the Buyer events as well as seminars on Financial Risks, Poor Payers, Taxation and the Budget as well as holding exhibitions that are sector or commodity related.

Ethnic Minority Benevolent Association (EMBA)

EMBA focuses mainly on six community cohesion issues:

- Community development; provision of advice, guidance and support in order to raise awareness and increase involvement in various areas
- Graduate support
- Job Search Skills Workshop
- Bi-lingual pre-job support
- Parental support
- Community Education Partnership and Schools

Garden Able

Garden Able is a project for people with learning disabilities which is located at Hodge Hut and adjacent allotments. People get referred from the Day Care Centre and learn about gardening, horticulture and are able to sell goods to customers. All Garden Able committee members are referees from the Day Care Centre.

Groundwork East Lancashire

Groundwork is a leading environmental regeneration charity working towards its vision of 'a society made up of sustainable communities which are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper'.

Each Trust is a partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors with its own board of trustees. The work of the Trusts is supported by the national and regional offices of Groundwork UK and by Groundwork Wales.

Groundwork's purpose is to build sustainable communities through joint environmental action.

Groundwork aims to do this by getting residents, businesses and other local organisations involved in practical projects that improve quality of life, bring about regeneration and lay the foundations for sustainable development.

Current projects that foster community cohesion in the North West are:

- Creation of a over 300 ha multi-use sustainable woodland landscape throughout East Lancashire which is developed by, and contributes to the quality of life of the people who live and work there.
- Various projects that help local people transform derelict and neglected land into new public amenities such as community gardens on inner city housing estates, wildlife areas, community forests, new cycleways, footpaths and major recreational facilities on former industrial land.
- Engagement of some of the hardest to reach young people and diverting them from crime and anti-social behaviour through engaging them into Groundwork's projects.

Lancashire Children's Fund (LCF)

Lancashire Children's Fund is the leading government initiative. The organisation works with a large number of service providers whose collective aim is to deliver services across Lancashire which achieve the best results for the 5-13 year olds living within the county by improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable children and young people.

Current Community Cohesion Projects are:

- Breakfast And After School Clubs (Colne): Breakfast and after school clubs which include sports and arts for children whose parents are in receipt or eligible for free school meals, income

support, job seekers allowance. For disabled and statemented children and those on the SEN register.

- Out Of School Family Support (Pendle Pakistani Welfare Association)
- Caring Today (Brierfield Community Centre): The project delivers play activities for children with disabilities, which are available at weekends. The scheme works with the families during the week and in addition offers advocacy services.
- Community Sports Liaison Officer (Marsden Community School): The school has appointed a Community Sports Liaison Officer to develop 'taster' courses to make awareness of different sports.

Lancashire Constabulary

The Lancashire police force has a national reputation for pioneering "problem oriented policing" in which it attempts to deal with the general causes of crime. Many of the recommendations now coming from the Home Office can be traced to the work of the Lancashire force. Community units have recently been established to work in Nelson and Brierfield and other town centres. The Police are part of the Community Safety Partnership and carry out outreach work with local schools. They have a central role in mapping the locations of tension and in monitoring the incidence of various crimes including "hate crime" which includes racial violence to persons and property. They also have the on the ground operational experience to assess and deal with developing situations.

Lancashire County Council Libraries

The LCC Library Service offers a range of services to all residents in different languages. These range from local studies, provision of videos, CDs and DVDs, offering computer classes and tools for interactive learning as well as services for the disabled and housebound, young people and children. The library has been a focal meeting point for local residents not only as a place for individual learning but also a venue to debate and discuss with other community members and thus contributes greatly to community cohesion.

Every library offers special exhibitions that change monthly and organise events such as political discussions, reading and writing sessions as well as storytelling groups. Additionally, every library offers weekly events such as books sales and coffee mornings.

Lancashire Probation Service

The Probation Service delivers services alongside, and jointly, with partners in the criminal justice system and with agencies and organisations in the statutory and voluntary sectors. The aim is to reduce crime and disorder to promote community safety and to represent and support victims of crime. The organisation works with many statutory partnerships and formal contacts that provide opportunities for offenders under the Probation Service's supervi-

sion to make changes in their lives away from crime and towards rehabilitation.

The service works in partnerships that support the probation practice by providing specialist work in

- assessment and treatment for offenders whose offending is linked to their use of alcohol and drugs
- employment, education and training assessment and advice to increase offenders' employability
- placement of offenders serving Community Punishment Orders
- accreditation of skills by offenders on Community Service
- risk assessment and work with sex offenders.

Lancashire Youth and Community Services

Lancashire Youth & Community Service is committed to providing high quality youth work experiences for young people. The organisation aims to provide meeting places for youngsters, opportunities for personal and social development, information and advice services, offers detached and outreach services, supports access to Connexions services, gives young people informal education and accredits young people's learning as well as raising awareness around personal, social & health education issues.

The Pendle office concentrates on community involvement, outdoor education, rural youth work, the disabled, girls and young women as well as those that have problems moving from secondary to further education.

Mid Pennine Arts

Mid Pennine Arts is an organisation that offers courses and provides Art to the community. The organization works closely with the community to produce Art that often reflects life of resident's life experiences in Lancashire. The Girls on Film project, a film about the life of girls in Pendle, gave girls from different schools and socio-cultural backgrounds the opportunity to express their life experiences as actresses. Other local projects include oral history sessions with local Pendle residents.

Minhaj UI Quran

Minhaj UI Quran is an international movement with the aim to advance the Islamic religion in the United Kingdom, the relief of poverty, sickness and distress generally and the provision of recreational facilities for the young and elderly in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such persons. Minhaj-ul-Quran has several sub-organisations such as the social welfare and human rights society, Minhaj Education Society, Minhaj Women League and Mustafavi students movement.

Muslim Global Relief (MGR)

Muslim Global Relief has aimed to help those most in need around the world, irrespective of creed, caste, colour or political affiliation. The charity provides immediate help in times of disaster whether caused by natural causes or conflict to help alleviate the suffering of the needy and destitute members of society anywhere in the world. MGR also helps rebuild local communities through self-sustaining long term projects.

The following global community cohesion related projects currently exist:

- MGR Aal-e-Muhammad (PBUH) Gift Project: This is the blessing of the Holy Prophet.
- Caring for the Disabled & Elderly: Provision of food, clothing and rent money from the elderly and disabled in third world countries.
- MGR Dawa: MGR helps to educate poor families by distributing books about the basics of Islam and a copy of the Holy Quran with relevant translation.
- Orphan Sponsorship
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- MGR Gynaecological Centre: Health care provision for women
- MGR Addict Rehabilitation Hospital

NHS Hospital Trust - East Lancashire

The East Lancashire NHS Hospital Trust offers services in Blackburn, Burnley, Rossendale and Pendle. The Pendle Community Hospital is a small community hospital, which provides a range of services for the population of Pendle, including inpatient facilities for GP patients and for medicine for the elderly. In addition, there is an outpatient department with diagnostic facilities, day hospital and a rehabilitation department.

The List of Achievements regarding community cohesion include:

- (Race) Equality Schemes and Action Plans
- Provision of Religiously and Culturally acceptable Services (and employment)
- Prayer room
- Muslim Chaplaincy
- Prayer Mats, Holy Qurans, Qiblah signs, beads, ablution vessels on every ward
- Limited provision of leaflets/booklets etc. and signage in minority languages
- Use of language Line 24/365 contract and train
- Cultural Awareness Training

- Recognising the fundamental religious/cultural/traditional difficulties-moving towards "female only route through training"
- Plans for positive action project
- Careers conventions, school visits, specific campaigns
- Disability and Access
- Disability Discrimination Act training
- Signage, disabled parking, toilet facilities, dropped kerbs improvements etc.
- Prioritise annual physical access budget
- Arrangements of the profoundly deaf (text phones, loops, ELDS contract, loud and clear campaign)
- Liaison with local Disability Employment Advisor
- Disability Awareness Training
- Regional Diversity and Equality Steering Group (information sharing, newsletter, impending negotiations etc)
- Regional Diverse Workforce Facilitator

Nelson and Colne College

Nelson & Colne College aims to provide high quality education and training designed to serve the communities of Pendle and beyond.

The College commits itself to provide a sixth form education of the highest attainable standard, to give people a choice of work-related education and training programmes, to offer quality life-long learning opportunities as well as supporting employers in the continued development of a highly skilled and well-qualified workforce.

Extra curricula community cohesion activities have contributed to community cohesion through providing a wide range of services to all College members. These activities often take place outside the usual College life. These include for instance study trips to other mainly European countries, fundraising and sport activities. The year 11 project is especially designed for those who have been excluded from school and attempts to integrate students into the College. Furthermore, the N&CC offers adult education classes such as the summer school, weekend learning classes as well as providing courses in their outreach centres. Rural courses are being offered in Barnoldswick, Earby and Salterforth. The College offers special translation facilities for ethnic minorities, a disabled service as well as providing motivational workers for those students who are in risk of dropping out of College. Social and personal development initiatives and drug awareness programmes are part of this service

Nelson Leader

Nelson Leader is one of Lancashire's best known newspapers and was established in 1900. The newspaper covers a wide range of

stories about local events and happenings and incorporates sections for local areas throughout Pendle.

North West Princes Trust

The Princes Trust (Trust Mentoring Project) helps young people to re-engage with learning and find pathways to employment by recruiting, training and supporting a local network of volunteer mentors who must be 18. It operates in Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley and Pendle.

The project has a strong influence on community cohesion through

- providing opportunity for young people in a range of progression routes - education, training and the world of work
- promoting a more positive attitude in young people
- developing self esteem in young people
- offering personal development for mentors
- equip mentors with confidence, skills and knowledge to begin a mentoring role
- provide volunteers with the opportunity to network with other volunteers
- offer information about relevant policies and procedures
- provide training covering issues relevant to working with young people and thus encouraging community cohesion

The project additionally delivers a number of group activities to engage young people and divert them from engaging in criminal activities. These include:

- XL Club of the Year - two year programme of school-based clubs aimed at 14-16 year students who are underachieving or at risk of exclusion at Walton High School.
- Arts group - using a range of mediums such as photography, video, creative writing etc.
- Experiment With Sound - using music and DJ equipment to create sound
- Football Sessions - coaching sessions for young people
- Residentials - allowing young people to develop their team building and group work skills in a different environment

Northern Technologies

The Northern Technologies Group provides technical services, business support and training solutions. Services are being provided to a broad spectrum of markets which include: engineering, manufacturing, administration, public sector and information technology by specializing on technology transfer, product and process design and development.

Northern Technologies works in partnership with organisations such as Business Link, UK Online, Learndirect, TaNET, the Learning and Skills Council, the Manufacturing Institute, UK Business Incubation, NWDA, Pendle Partnership, the DTI and Lancashire University.

Pendle Borough Council

PBC has the statutory responsibility for the delivery of many services throughout Pendle. As such its officers and elected members have a key role in ensuring that matters of cohesion are reflected in policies, programmes and projects.

Pendle Community Network (PCN)

Pendle Community Network aims to bring together Community, Voluntary and Faith Groups within Pendle. Their main objectives are to give members a stronger voice in decision making processes, deliver advice and information about what is going on in Pendle and the Pendle Partnership, present members by appointing representatives to Pendle Partnership, keep members informed about funding opportunities as well as promoting activities of the members.

PCN, working closely with Pendle Environment Network, has enabled the construction of new build community centre for the Hodge House allotment complex and surrounding neighbourhood in Nelson. PCN has acquired its own marquee which is continually used by PCN and other groups throughout the summer period on a whole variety of special and community events. PCN has also set up CASP - Community Accounting Services Pendle to provide support and assistance in all aspects of governance and finance to community groups. The organisation has recently secured funding to set up Pendle Community Enterprise Agency which will be a new, exciting and dynamic initiative to develop further community enterprises within Pendle that will meet the needs and aspirations of local communities.

Pendle Community Safety Partnership

The Pendle Community Safety Partnership exists between Pendle Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police Constabulary, statutory and voluntary agencies, the press, local businesses and the community. It is the aim of the partnership to develop safer neighbourhoods, improve the quality of life and reduce the level and fear of crime for those that live, work and visit Pendle.

Pendle Environmental Network (PEN)

Pendle Environmental Network (PEN) is affiliated to Pendle Community Network and acts as the main 'umbrella' for environmental interests in the local voluntary and community sector. PEN will bring together representatives of local voluntary and community organizations, statutory authorities and other agencies.

Its main objectives are to raise awareness of environmental issues, to advance education in environmental matters, to promote and

protect the natural and built environment and to improve the environmental health and well-being of people in Pendle.

Recent environmental projects on open space and wildlife protection, waste reduction and energy consumption involves people of all ages, abilities and cultures in understanding and protecting their environment as well as enabling them to share experiences to raise their level of awareness and skills.

Pendle Festival

The Pendle Festival is one of Lancashire's top events with a multi-cultural mix of live music, art and craft based workshops, street entertainment, stalls and information stands. It comprises of a specially built stage with video screen, a large mix of arts workshops, musicians, DJs and artists who have been specially commissioned to work with a group of local children on creating a performance in the park just for the festival.

The event has been organised by the Pendle Festival Committee, which includes Mid Pennine Arts, through the 5 Wards Arts and Cultural Project, Pendle Community Network, Pendle Leisure and other individuals from the area.

Funding for the festival comes from sources such as Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Safety Partnership Funding and Community Chest Funding administered through Pendle Borough Council, Pendle Community Network, Mid Pennine Arts, Lancashire County Council Arts Unit, Pendle Leisure Services and Lancashire Police.

Pendle Leisure Trust

Pendle Leisure Trust manages a host of leisure facilities in the Borough of Pendle. It commits itself to listening, communicating and providing quality leisure opportunities for all. The Trust also provides commercial training opportunities and a host of publicity, merchandising and advertising opportunities within their centers. Projects link into a variety of partnership initiatives to ensure that all residents have access to health, sport and arts activities.

Three different project strands currently exist: sports development, health community projects and arts projects.

These programmes involve a large amount of community cohesion aspects. They encourage residents to take control of their health and participate in a more active lifestyle by improving accessibility and appropriateness of activities available in the Borough. Local participation and coaching opportunities aim to strengthen local leadership and involvement in community activities. Participants of the arts project work closely with other agencies to make local events like the Pendle Festival and the Carnival in the Park happen.

Pendle MAGnet

MAGnet (Multi-Agency Group Network) is a forum attended by managers representing many statutory and voluntary organisations, which is proactive in developing collaborative patterns of working. MAGnet, together with Mid Pennine Art and the probation service is involved in the Brierfield Arts and Drugs Project, a

scheme set up among young people to look at the issue of drug taking in Nelson and Brierfield.

Pendle Pakistan Welfare Association (PPWA)

The PPWA was founded in 1982 and has extended and evolved its functions over the years. The main objectives of the PPWA are to improve the economic condition of the local community, advance the educational attainment and skill base, enhance the social, welfare and health conditions as well as improving recreating, leisure and cultural facilities. Education can be regarded as a priority area of the PPWA. Out-of-school projects, language and ICT class provision have been successful initiatives in recent years. The services provided include: training, pilot projects, information and advice, counseling, advocacy, outreach work, education, lobbying and practical support.

Pendle Partnership

Pendle Partnership was established in 1996. The Partnership aims to bring together people from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors who are committed to the economic, social and environmental regeneration of the Borough of Pendle.

From April 2002, Pendle Partnership formally took on the role of Local Strategic Partnership for Pendle - co-ordinating partnership working across the borough. The Local Strategic Partnership is committed to attracting funds to Pendle.

Pendle Partnership funding has helped to create and improve access to new jobs, encourage new business, improve education and training opportunities, tackle health inequality, reduce social exclusion and support environmental improvements and crime reduction initiatives.

Recent Community Cohesion Projects include:

- Brierfield Cyber café: The project has created a cyber café with up to 5 internet connections, staff support and basic refreshments for clients and an area for young children to safely play. The Project seeks to make a significant contribution to Life Long Learning. It provides town centre facilities that will be open at certain times 7 days per week.
- Brierfield Resource Centre: The project provides a building for a range of projects and organisations operating in the Brierfield CED area. An outreach service for socially excluded members is included.
- Colne & District Credit Union/ Nelson Community Credit Union: The projects will build the capacity of the union, creating a sustainable organisation capable of delivering a range of financial services, reducing socio-economic exclusion by providing services to unbanked and financially at-risk residents.
- Colne Open Door Community Project: The aim of the project is to respond to and address the needs of disadvantaged people in Colne, in particular within the deprived wards of Waterside and Vivary Bridge through the provision of a café with IT

facilities, counseling services, information points and other community facilities.

- Developing an inclusive local learning society: The aim of the project is achieved by utilising internet technologies to develop an inclusive local learning information society within Pendle's Priority 2 wards (Bradley, Whitefield, Brierfield, Waterside and Vivary Bridge) providing high quality adult information, advice and guidance on learning and work opportunities. The project is concerned with dismantling and removing real and perceived barriers to accessing learning
- Enterprising Communities in Pendle: This is a project for people with disabilities or disadvantages to provide business counselling to enable them to set up their own businesses, build their capacity to live independent lives, help remove the barriers they encounter because of their circumstances and to establish the skills they need if they wish eventually to set up in self employment.
- Five Wards Arts & Cultural Project: This project exists to provide arts experience in order to engage the local community and find ways of tackling social exclusion
- Hodge House Community Building: The purpose of the project is to build successful partnerships based on linking deprived communities with opportunities for healthy living through improving the local physical environment.
- ITHAAD Translation & Interpretation Unit: Purposes of the project are to offer translation and interpretation services, to raise Asian language and cultural awareness to promote social inclusion and reduce racial tensions and to provide basic language skills to English speakers.
- Locality Planning: The Locality Planning Programme will support the regeneration of the five target wards of Pendle (Bradley, Whitefield, Brierfield, Waterside and Vivary Bridge) through a programme of community-led environmental projects that focus on community participation and empowerment as well as improving the local environment and quality of life.
- Nelson Youth Action Point: The aim of this project is to equip young volunteers between 16 and 25 to become advocates and champions of community cohesion, to reduce the racial tensions between people from black and minority ethnic communities and disadvantaged white people, from the target areas of Bradley and Whitefield.
- Network Development Project: the aim is to increase the number of affordable, trained, flexible and reliable Childminders in the project target areas of Waterside and Vivary Bridge.
- Pendle Community ICT Project: This project has been assembled to provide the community with access to ICT and digital information within 19 existing facilities in the five target wards of Pendle (Bradley, Whitefield, Brierfield, Waterside and Vivary

Bridge). The facilities will be available in popular venues such as community clubs, supermarkets and day centres.

- **Pendle Portal:** The scheme will develop a web based facility to be known as PendleLife, which can be accessed by all residents, businesses and partners in Pendle. The portal is an interactive electronic gateway, which can facilitate community development through a variety of different mechanisms. The principal aim of the portal will be to facilitate access to information and to enable the communities in the priority wards to wholly engage with the full experience that is the potential of the internet, including the opportunity for community and voluntary groups to have a presence on the world wide web.
- **Pendle Intermediary Project (PIP):** The aim of this project is to bridge the gap between the businesses and unemployed residents in the CED target wards in Pendle by stimulating labour market expansion, developing the capacity and skill base of unemployed residents and aid them finding employment.
- **St Philips Family Support Centre:** The Project aims to address barriers to equality of opportunity in learning and employment for residents of the Bradley and Whitefield Wards of the Borough of Pendle through child-care, dependent care and the promotion of increased and sustainable economic activities of local residents.
- **Youth Works Pendle:** The aim of the project is to encourage and support over 16 year olds by enabling development and progression into training and employment opportunities. The project will work in partnership with all the local agencies, providing an integrated multi-agency approach to the work. (Partners include Youth and Community Service, Connexions, Youth Offending Team, PBC Housing Department and Community Safety Partnership. Target areas are Whitefield & Bradley, and Waterside & Vivary Bridge wards.

Pendle Schools

There are presently seven 11-16 schools in Pendle. Three schools have been included in the Wave 1 proposals for Building Schools for the Future. These schools are situated in the Brierfield/Nelson part of the Borough.

Schools run various projects that foster community cohesion. These are not only part of the curriculum but also include extra curricula activities such as school trips, summer schools as well as sportive and cultural events. These programmes have proved highly successful amongst youngsters and have contributed to interaction between children of different age and ethnic origin. The "Girls on Film" project of Walton High School, Edge End High School and Ghausia Girls High School has been a major success story in 2002/2003. The schools' social workers play a major role in ensuring the successful outcome and supervision of such projects.

Pendle Training

Pendle Training is a division of Northern Technologies. The organisation offers youth and adult jobs with courses leading to nationally recognised qualifications and connections with established local companies. Pendle Training supports Learning Direct which is the leading on-line learning provider with over 450 courses. These cover business issues across a broad range of subjects and enables students to learn at home by using ICT.

St Philip's Family Support Centre

St Philip's Family Support Centre helps parents and their children and contributes greatly to community cohesion by providing affordable quality childcare and other family support services particularly for families in need. The main target group is from the priority wards of Bradley and Whitefield. The centre provides facilities for about 80 children a day and has a total of over 300 children on its register. It operates as a partnership between St Philip's church and St Philips school.

The Family Support Centre meets a vital need for parents who want to work but cannot afford to. It provides before and after school clubs, playgroups, school holiday playgroups, homework clubs and a crèche. Childcare rates are approximately one-third of the equivalent private sector provision.

SafeSpace

The project provides short stay accommodation and support in Pendle for young people between the ages of 16 and 25, who are homeless or facing being homeless. SafeSpace is staffed 24 hours by staff and volunteers. The facility comprises of 8 individual bedrooms and shared facilities including lounge, kitchen, laundry facilities and bathrooms.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is an integral part of the Christian Church, The Army's doctrine follows the mainstream of Christian belief. Its objects are the advancement of the Christian religion, of education, the relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society or the community. The organisation offers six main services:

- Health service
- Community Development
- Relief work
- Women's ministries
- Fighting Global Sexual Trafficking

SureStart

SureStart is a Government programme which aims to achieve better outcomes for children, parents and communities by:

- increasing the availability of childcare for all children

- improving health, education and emotional development for young children
- supporting parents as parents and in their aspirations towards employment.

This will be achieved by:

- helping services development in disadvantaged areas alongside financial help for parents to afford childcare
- rolling out the principles driving the Sure Start approach to all services for children and parents.

Sure Start local programmes are area-based initiatives with the aim of improving the health and well-being of families and children from before birth to four years. Sure Start local programmes are delivered by local partnerships, with strong parental and community involvement. All agencies (local authorities, NHS, voluntary sector and others) are encouraged to work together in new and constructive ways in order to provide better services focused on the needs of families and young children.

There are SureStart programmes in:

- Brierfield & Walverden
- Bradley & Whitefield
- Vivary Bridge & Waterside

Appendix 2

ATTENDANCE AT THE BRIERFIELD WORKSHOP

The following people representing a number of organisations attended a workshop on the 6th July in Brierfield to hear an update of the progress of the study and to prioritise the issues coming from the work so far.

PC Andy McNicholas	Nelson Police
Phil Storey	Pendle Leisure Trust
Tonia Barton	Pendle Borough Council (Reedley Councillor)
Keith Tomlinson	Brierfield Town Council
Florence Tomlinson	Brierfield Town Council
Stuart Sambrook	Pendle Borough Council
Christine Collingwood	Pendle Borough Council
Javaid Hussain	Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Primary Care Trust
Anayat Mohammad	East Lancs Together
Derek Weston	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust
Cath Howley	New Era Enterprise
Clive Thomasson	Pendle Borough Council
Martin Burgess	Edge End High School
Beth Logan	Pendle Borough Council
Sam Plum	Pendle Borough Council
Sarah Astin	Pendle Borough Council
Anne Holmes	Council for Voluntary Service
Linda MacSween	Age Concern Lancashire
Carol Harvey	Pendle Leisure Trust / Pendle Community Network
Tim Mansfield	Primary Care Trust
Brian Astin	Pendle Borough Council

Appendix 3

STORYTELLING TRAINEES

The following people and organisations have used storytelling kits with their own communities or clients:

Linda MacSween	Age Concern Lancashire
Sue Dawes	Edge End High School
Damian Duggan	Building Bridges
Nigel Balshaw	Garden Able
Carol Harvey	Pendle Leisure Trust
Toni Proudfoot	SafeSpace
Ann McIvor	Colne Open Door
Terry McGinn	Health worker
Suzanne Farentino	Youth Worker
Saba Mughal	NHS Trust
Anne Holmes	CVS

Appendix 4

TIMELINE

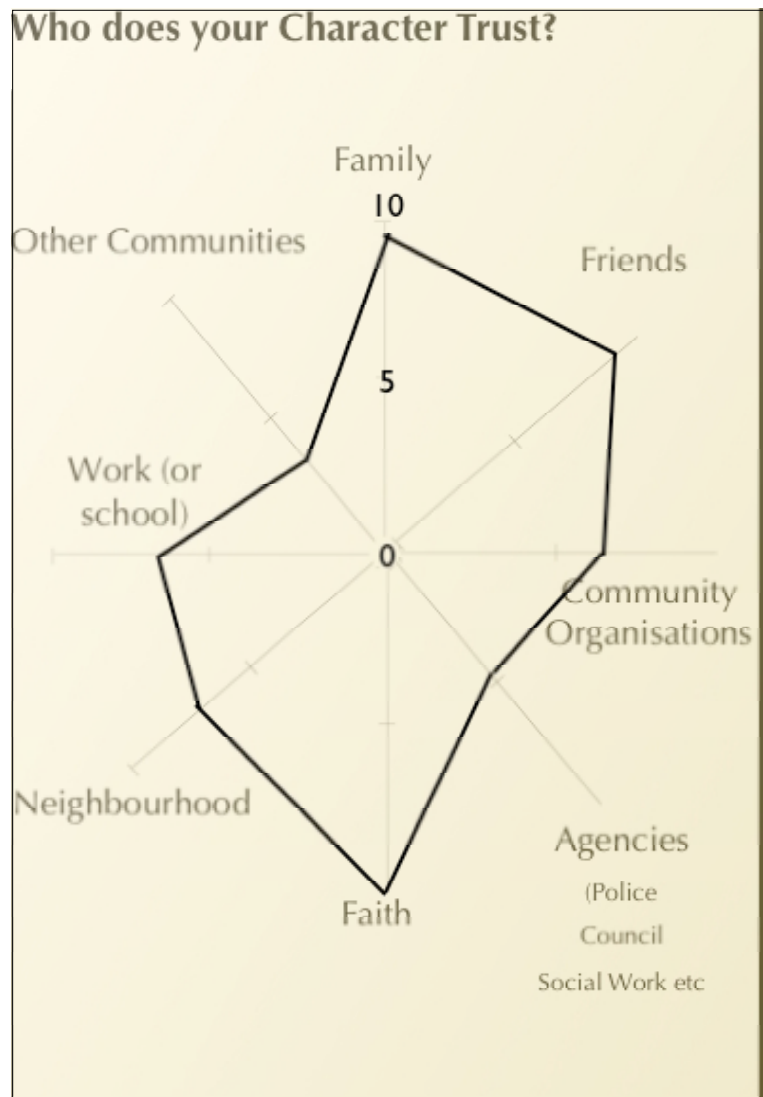
The chart below is a sample of a timeline sheet used to prepare groups stories:

<div> <div>"Timeline"</div> <div> <div>Names: Betty Arnold</div> <div>Location: Duke Street (Waterside)</div> <div>Age: Now: 50</div> </div> </div>					
birth & pre-school	primary	secondary	early adult	middle age	old age
<p>Born in Waterside in Colne. Mum a cleaner, Dad works at Smith and Nephew. Looked after by maternal Grandma. Grandad killed in the war. 2 older brothers, 1 younger sister. Happy childhood. Close to Grandma. Sunday School (Methodist)</p>	<p>Goes to Lord Street Primary. Loves school - lots of friends. Confident but not academic.</p> <p>Dad leaves after an affair.</p> <p>More time spent with Grandma - family now less well off financially. Becomes mother to younger sister and does more housework. Relies on neighbours, friends and family.</p> <p>Falls 11 plus.</p>	<p>Goes to Prieston High. 2nd streamed. Best friend from primary in top stream - grow apart. Liked music but couldn't stay behind for classes.</p> <p>Dreamed of being popular with boyfriends.</p> <p>Puts others first. Not able to make the most of opportunities.</p> <p>Grandma dies.</p> <p>Aspires to production at Smith and Nephew.</p> <p>Leaves school at 15.</p>	<p>Works at Smith and Nephew. Gets pregnant in summer of 1969 (one night stand). Has baby boy. Goes back to work and Mum looks after baby. Still lives with her Mum.</p> <p>Grows up quickly and works long hours. Moves away from Church. Marries older man in her mid-twenties. He works at Smith and Nephew.</p> <p>Move to Bristowale Avenue and has another baby girl.</p> <p>Buy car - holidays to Butlins. Happy and relatively prosperous. Go out each weekend to pubs and clubs.</p>	<p>Betty now 40, husband 50, son (David) 25 and has left to go to University. daughter (Alison) musical and doing well at school.</p> <p>Mum dies.</p> <p>Smith and Nephew closes. Both made redundant. Relationship ends and Betty buys house on Duke Street. Supported by younger sister and friends from work.</p> <p>Alison goes off the rails - drugs. Betty in despair - doctors for depression - downward spiral.</p> <p>Alison gets pregnant - baby taken into care due to drugs. Betty eventually looks after baby.</p>	<p>Meets Grandma at 50 looking after Rebecca. Alison goes into rehab. Plans to resume academic career and music. Rebecca stays with Betty.</p> <p>Early 80s meets Jack at Church Fete. Volunteering at Church playgroup. Marries Jack.</p> <p>To be continued....</p>

Appendix 5

POLAR DIAGRAM

The diagram below is used to score the degrees of trust that the story character has in various groups:



Appendix 6

QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire shown below was used after each storytelling session to explore aspects of community safety. Each storytelling group member completed the sheet.

Community Cohesion Questionnaire

- 1) Are you... male ☐ female ☒
- 2) What age are you?
- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Under 18 | <input type="radio"/> | 18-29 | <input type="radio"/> | 30-39 | <input type="radio"/> | 40-49 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | 50-59 | <input type="radio"/> | 60+ | <input type="radio"/> |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|
- 3) Where do you live? Cadner
- 4) Did your grandparents come from Pendle? Yes ☐
No, they come from Warrington
North
- 5) Do you practice a certain religion? No ☐
Yes, I practice methodist
- 6) Do you have friends in...
- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|----------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| - other cultures? | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | No | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| - other faiths? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | No | <input type="radio"/> |
- 7) Do most of your friends...
- | | | | | |
|---|-----|----------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| - live in the same area as you? | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | No | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| - come from the same age group? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | No | <input type="radio"/> |
| - come from the same cultural background? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | No | <input type="radio"/> |
- 8) Do you consider Pendle...
- a friendly place? found it hard to make friends when we moved into the area
- a place where you want to spend your future? yes
- a place where you feel safe? yes
- 9) Would you report a racial incident? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- If so, who would you report it to? Police

Thank you very much for filling out this form!!!

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Introduction

The questionnaire was filled out by all participants in the storytelling sessions and aimed to explore aspects of community safety. It was introduced at the request of the Community Safety Partnership. Not all those who took part in the storytelling filled in the questionnaire for the following reasons:

- The questionnaire was introduced after the first storytelling sessions had been run
- In some cases, time constraints (school periods for instance) meant that there was little opportunity to ensure that all participants completed the questionnaire.

Additionally, some questionnaires were incomplete or over-complete (both answers to a choice question ticked). These have been set aside. In all, of the 580 people who took part in the storytelling, 463 completed valid questionnaires.

The questionnaire focused on the following aspects:

- Age
- Heritage
- Religion
- Interaction with people from other areas, religions, cultural backgrounds
- Perception of Pendle as a friendly place to live
- Perception of Pendle as a place to spend the future
- Feeling safe in Pendle
- Reporting of racial incidents

Findings

There was a problem of accessing the rural population. Therefore, data provided by this group can only be an indicator of attitudes and perceptions, the same is true for the urban white community.

Young People

This group incorporates school children of the age between 10 and 16, urban and rural as well as white and Asian. There are significant differences between the attitudes of urban and rural school children as well as Asian and white children. The biggest differences exists between urban and rural children, arguably because urban children are more exposed to multicultural lifestyles.

Religion

While 80 per cent of rural children claim to have no religion, only 54 per cent of urban children say that they are not religious. This is mainly due to a large amount of Asian Muslim children in urban areas who claim to be religious (more than 90 per cent).

Interaction with people from other cultures, age grounds, faiths and cultural backgrounds

The same percentage of children from both, rural and urban backgrounds claim that they have friends from other cultures (76 per cent). However, when asked whether most friends come from the *same* cultural background, the same amount of rural children answer with “yes”. Amongst the urban children, a higher amount of Asian kids state that their friends come from other cultural backgrounds (43 per cent, whites: 32 per cent). The same is true regarding faith. More Asian children interact with children of other cultural backgrounds than vice versa. Rural children tend to have little contact with people from other faiths (44 per cent). While urban children claim that 72 per cent of their friends come from the same area, the percentage is higher for rural children (88 per cent). The vast majority of children state that their friends come from the same age group (96 per cent for the rural population and 80 per cent for urban dwellers).

Pendle as a friendly place

While 84 per cent of rural children claim that Pendle is a friendly place, 72 per cent of the urban children are of the same opinion. Interestingly, of these 72 per cent, it is the Asian population who considers Pendle a friendlier place than children from British heritage. While none of the rural children considered Pendle as not friendly, 20 per cent of the urban children said so. Some rural children (16 per cent) stated that Pendle was “reasonably friendly” or “friendly in most places”.

Pendle as a place to spend the future

The majority of urban children does not see their future in Pendle (66 per cent) in comparison to 40 per cent of rural children. 36 per cent of rural children definitely want to stay in the area in comparison to 28 per cent of the white children. 8 per cent of the rural children are not sure while 6 per cent of urban children do not know whether they want to stay in Pendle. Interestingly, of those that want to stay in the area, children of Asian origin want to spend their future in Pendle most (80 per cent).

Safety

Most children of rural/urban, Asian/white backgrounds feel safe in Pendle (more than 70 per cent of all groups answered “yes”), but rural children generally felt slightly safer than urban children.

Reporting a racial incident

While 80 per cent of rural children stated that they would report a racial incident, only 35 per cent of urban children answered “yes”. 24 per cent replied with “no” while 36 per cent stated that it would “depend on the severity” of the case. Another 5 per cent of urban children said that they would “sort it out myself”. Interestingly, of those urban children that would report an incident, only 25 per cent of Asian children would do so. While most rural children would see the police as the institution they would report to, urban children state that they would rather talk to friends, the family or their teacher before reporting to the police. This, however, again depends on the degree of assault.

Adults

While within the category of white urban adults, men and women are represented in an approximate balance, the rural participants were mostly female. The same is true for the Asian urban population.

Religion

There is a large difference between under 30 year olds and the older generation. While the younger generation, particularly urban dwellers, claim not to be religious (86 per cent), 76 per cent of the elderly belong to a faith. Amongst the Asian (urban) community, only 2 per cent of the adult population are non-Muslim.

Interaction with people from other cultures, age grounds, faiths and cultural backgrounds

Particularly in rural communities, people claim to have little contact with people from other cultural backgrounds (73 per cent), whereas urban dwellers have more intercultural relationships. 34 per cent of Asians state that they have friends from other cultures in comparison to 27 per cent of the white community.

While friends of the white population have friends outside their neighbourhood (65 per cent), Asian people state that most of their friends live in the same area (71 per cent). In terms of friends from different age groups, the white population claims to have a higher percentage of friends from other age groups (67 per cent) than people of Asian heritage (20 per cent). However, there is a disparity between males and

females; women are more likely to have friends from different age profiles.

Pendle as a friendly place

96 per cent of the white population (urban and rural) characterise Pendle as a friendly place in comparison to 87 per cent of the Asian population.

Pendle as a place to spend the future

The young white population did not see their future in the area. Only 35 per cent of this group wanted to stay in Pendle. Particularly women want to move (64 per cent). Asian people are more likely to stay in Pendle, with 24 per cent stating that they want to leave the area. Of those who do not see their future in Pendle, lack of employment opportunities was mentioned as the main factor (87 per cent).

Safety

White women are most aware of safety issues in the area. Only 54 per cent consider Pendle a safe place in comparison to 68 per cent of Asian women and 71 per cent of men. Interestingly, rural communities feel less safe than urban dwellers. 8 per cent state that they only feel safe in their own community.

Reporting a racial incident

In terms of the adult population of Pendle overall, Asian people are more likely to report racial incidents (88 per cent) than the white community (71 per cent). The same pattern of more complex reporting considerations was identified amongst urban adults as has been indicated amongst children.