

**South Cambridgeshire CDRP SSCF Funding Plan Input**

**Community Cohesion Officer - £6,500**

The Open Out Scheme is now firmly embedded in Southern Division having established mechanisms for third party reporting, which are regularly monitored. Whilst continual promotion and maintenance of the Scheme is still required, the demand for dedicated time and resources has reduced significantly and therefore the post holder is now able to direct their focus on the further development of meaningful relationships with minority groups and the voluntary and statutory organisations that support them. With this in mind it has been proposed that the Open Out Co-ordinator be given the more fitting title of Community Cohesion Officer.

The post holder will be responsible for the provision of guidance, support and advice to members of minority communities who feel vulnerable or have been a victim of crime (particularly hate crime). This, in combination with the overall development of strong relationships will lead to a greater understanding of the difficulties and issues faced by minority communities and groups, which will be fed into the information and intelligence processes of the Police and CDRP organisations to help prevent crime and promote stronger community cohesion. The activity detailed above clearly impacts upon the community engagement theme adopted by the Partnership, but the post also seeks to involve young people in the community safety agenda by working with schools to raise awareness about homophobic and racial bullying.

Engagement with hard to reach groups was identified as an area requiring further development under 8 of the 46 recommendations in the Hallmarks of Effective Partnership Working self-assessment. As a funding organisation, South Cambridgeshire CDRP (along with the City CSP and East Cambs CSP) would have the opportunity to direct the work of the Community Cohesion Officer through the Community Cohesion Steering Group, thus assisting to address this gap. One of the functions of this Group is to act as a forum for the discussion and agreement on proposed specific local initiatives i.e. production and distribution of marketing materials in suitable formats and languages.

The members of the Community Cohesion Steering Group will monitor service delivery, and this in addition to the reports completed for the funding organisations will ensure visible and constructive accountability of the Community Cohesion Officer post.