

Strategic framework

The overarching **Community Strategy** sets out the vision for the borough up to 2020¹. This Strategy has been developed by the Dudley Community Partnership which includes the major public bodies, the private sector and voluntary and community partnerships. The strategy reflects widespread public priorities and needs within the borough. A strategic priority for 2009/12 will be Community Cohesion (I need to check this out – has been requested not sure if will be in final document).

The **New Generation Local Area Agreement** (NGLAA) is an agreement between Central Government and Local Strategic Partnerships which focuses on a core set of outcomes for the local area. The agreement includes 28 national indicators identified by Dudley as representing key outcomes to be achieved over the period of the agreement.

National Indicator is NI 1 '**Percentage of People from different backgrounds who believe they get on well together in their local area**'² appears in the Safe and Cohesive Communities block of the NGLAA and is the key measure chosen by Dudley in respect of Community Cohesion. This indicator is measured by the Place survey which is carried out on a two yearly basis.

The Council Plan 2010 (2009/10 Annual Review and Performance Plan 2009) feeds into the Community Strategy and puts in place plans to deliver against the 28 national indicators within the NGLAA (e.g. NI 1)

West Midlands Police also commission perception surveys known as 'Feeling the Difference', these are carried out in 'waves'. The question relating to community cohesion is 'Agreement that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously.

It is recognised that community cohesion is particularly difficult to measure and, although the government has identified a number of general performance indicators (e.g. NI 1), work continues on developing improved ways of doing this, both nationally and locally (e.g. via the National Institute of Community Cohesion).

Strategies and policies which also link to this work include:

- Safeguarding children
- Directorate of Children's Services Strategic Plan 2009/10
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
- Older People's Strategy
- Economic Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Economic Strategy
- Cultural Strategy

¹ The Dudley Borough Challenge Review 2009-2012 encompasses a number of new and revised partnership objectives, framed within new strategic priorities, under the original themes of the Community Strategy launched in 2005.

² From the previous survey our position has remained static whereas other Black Country Authorities results have worsened.