

DRAFT HARROW COMMUNITY COHESION AND INTEGRATION CHARTER

We are committed to the development of Harrow as a thriving and cohesive society of many communities, cultures, diverse faiths and beliefs.

We believe in building on our existing cohesive and integrated communities but recognise the importance of continuing, harmonious and good relations with our diverse communities. We are committed to creating a positive and productive environment where difference is valued and celebrated and we will take every opportunity to work to improve those relations and encourage greater understanding and contact between people and communities.

A cohesive community has three foundations:

- *There is a strong sense of an individual's rights and responsibilities – people know what everyone expects of them and what they can expect in turn and people are treated with respect*
- *People of all backgrounds have equal life opportunities, access to services and fair treatment*
- *There is a strong sense of trust in and confidence in institutions locally that they will act fairly and be open to public scrutiny*

And three ways of living together:

- *A shared sense of belonging for all communities*
- *There is a strong recognition of the contribution of those who have newly arrived and those who already have deep attachments to a particular place, celebrating points of commonality and diversity*
- *There are strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and other institutions within and across neighbourhoods.*

OUR COMMITMENT- We will:

1. Build a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities in the borough, as a place where everyone feels at ease and is able to respect and value the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances
2. Build a community in which people respect the rights, social customs and beliefs of others, share a greater sense of social responsibility, feel valued, and are willing and able to play a part in the life of the borough
3. Work to develop understanding, friendship, neighbourliness and mutual respect between all the people and communities who belong to Harrow and promote opportunities for people to come together in shared spaces.
4. Welcome, respect and value visitors and newcomers to Harrow
5. Make sure that people of different backgrounds have equal life opportunities whilst continuing to develop strong and positive relationships between people of different backgrounds in the workplace, in learning, in neighbourhoods and their leisure activities
6. Celebrate all that is good about Harrow, our many cultures and beliefs, our unique neighbourhoods, and the character and diversity of our people
7. Reject any form of discrimination, prejudice, harassment or violence
8. Remain watchful to any threats or challenges maintaining good community relations, and guarding against complacency.
9. Work together across all agencies and communities to reduce the fear of crime, actual crime, and tackle anti social behaviour of all types
10. We will strive to develop a decent standard of living and achieve better wellbeing and a quality of life for our residents
11. Work together to ensure that funding opportunities promote good community relations and activities
12. Support and develop voluntary and community organisations to provide opportunities for all our residents to become actively involved in their communities, creating a sense of ownership and pride in the borough

At all times, in all that we do, we will work to build bridges of understanding, friendship and mutual respect between all those people who belong to Harrow.

You can help us by:

- Taking pride in your community and valuing the diversity of the people who live, work and participate in the borough
- Respecting the beliefs, culture and social customs of your neighbours
- Supporting community initiatives that encourage positive interaction between people of different faiths, cultures and social customs
- Encouraging young people to understand the richness and variety of life that the multiplicity of communities brings to Harrow
- Reporting all incidents of hate crime, harassment and anti social behaviour, and supporting the statutory and voluntary agencies in their work to eradicate these sort of offences
- Being more engaged in the civic life of the borough through, for example, participating in community groups and voluntary activities and becoming involved in the work of statutory and voluntary agencies
- Continuing to contribute to and enjoy the cultural and recreational facilities in the borough and look after the environment

Signed by:

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