**Mid and South West Wales Community Cohesion Fund 2021 – 2022**

**Project Brief**

The Mid and South West Wales Community Cohesion Team have small grant funding available (up to £2000) to develop projects which help bring communities together safely (online or in person if appropriate), ensuring groups and premises can access initiatives that promote cohesive communities.

Community cohesion is what must happen to ensure different groups of people get on well together in the area. A cohesive community is an area where those from different backgrounds share positive relationships, feel safe in the neighbourhood and have a sense of mutual respect and shared values.

Segregation, misunderstanding and tension can occur between all sorts of communities, for example communities of younger and older people, different ethnicity or different neighbourhoods.The purpose of the Community Cohesion Fund is to help us to achieve the following outcomes:

* Different communities get on well together - Bringing different communities together to develop understanding and respect through meaningful engagement.
* Everyone feels they belong - Helping people to feel at home and to see diversity as strength to be enjoyed.
* Young people understand and respect different communities, and adults and young people get on well together - Supporting children and young people to develop understanding and respect for different communities, and helping to build good relationships between young people and adults in the county.
* There is freedom from tension - Addressing tensions and the causes of tension between and within communities.
* Communities in our region stand against Hate Crime, will not tolerate it. People understand what hate crime is and how to report it.

We would like to encourage applications to carry out activities to bring together communities who may otherwise never get to meet online or (if appropriate) in person – for example new arrivals in neighbourhoods getting to know people who have lived in the area for a long time, twinning projects with other communities in different parts of Wales where areas have a different diversity profile, or intergenerational work. We would like to encourage projects that can help people to enjoy and celebrate living in their communities and strengthen their sense of belonging. This could mean helping people to understand and enjoy each others’ cultures and traditions. It could involve new ways of working, developing materials which help bring people together and promote diversity and inclusion.

Specific focus should be given to the following areas:

1. Projects that commemorate/support events such as:
* Hate Crime Awareness Week
* Black History Month
* Holocaust Memorial Day
* LGBT History Month
* Learning Disability Week
* Interfaith Week
* International Day of Disability
* International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
1. Fostering good relations by developing events to bring people from across different communities together, whether virtually or in person. Events should promote social contact and integration (e.g. people from different backgrounds cooking together, community music groups for young people from different nationalities, community arts based projects, active citizenship, interfaith events, Welcoming newcomer initiatives)
2. Creating safe spaces and opportunities to bring people from different backgrounds together.
3. Projects that engage with minority communities, involving diverse groups in developing initiatives to promote community cohesion based on the needs of that community, the wider community, and mitigate tensions.

This funding will need to be spent by the **26th February 2022.**

**To apply to the fund, please complete the application form and return it by 31 August 2021. We will let all successful applications know by mid September.**

**Completed applications must be sent to Sarah Bowen, Community Cohesion Officer.** **slbowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**