Community Cohesion

Improving Opportunities

IOM Remit

To develop a community that creates opportunities for all and reduces inequality through lifelong learning, and social, economic and community development.

Including new residents

- Community groups and activities are a key ‘way in’ for new residents – moving from sleeping here to being part of the communities of interest and place that make up the County.
- The network of small groups provide a social fabric that offers good fun, informal support, reduced isolation, social significance outside the world of work.
Including the marginalised

- Single Older people
- Isolated single parents
- Single young people (including care leavers)
- Single person households (often post divorce)
- Single people with physical disabilities
- Single people with learning disabilities
- Single people with mental health needs
- Single people coming out of prison
- People recovering from addiction
- Single people in the LGBTI communities
- Single people who have suffered domestic violence

Examples

- Welcome packs for new residents in Dalkeith, Bilston, Gorebridge, Bonnyrigg created and distributed by community agencies.
- Development Trusts in Gorebridge, Mayfield, Penicuik, and Dalkeith involved in Town and Village centre regeneration, creating a sense of community around shared experiences of using local facilities.

Examples

- IOM has supported a ‘community buildings’ website – and is encouraging all local building operators from church halls to bowling clubs to council libraries to work together to get the best use out of what we have as resources shrink and population grows.
- MPEG promotes understanding of people in protected characteristics groups – the living books project.