

# Case study: Wilton, Carlinghow and Mount Pleasant women's twinning project

## What was the issue to address?

A twinning project was set up to break down barriers, bring women from the Batley area together, and deal with some of the myths and stereotypes that were being circulated in the media. Women from the Mount Pleasant area of Batley and from Wilton Park Estate were concerned about the negative portrayal the media was giving them with shared concerns over some of the anti social behaviour taking place in Wilton Park. Both communities have worked with Community Support Services to find positive ways of bringing different communities from the two areas together.

## What did we do?

We have held joint sessions with small groups from both areas to address issues of culture, diversity and difference. The sessions were aimed at building mutual understanding among women of different cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Using the NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute) model, we created opportunities for people from different communities to connect, meet openly and share the history and customs of their respective traditions and cultures. This gave women the opportunity to increase cross-cultural interaction and their awareness of diversity. This also helped the women to work together on shared goals for the local area, fostering a sense of belonging and pride in the longer term.

## What difference did we make?

People were able to identify their commonalities and differences in a positive way. They were also able to educate others about various communities and act as a positive influence on their peers and families. This reduced the potential for tension between people of different backgrounds.

## What were the keys to our success?

The women's group has acknowledged that community cohesion is best achieved through continuous dialogue, mutual understanding and frequent social interaction between different groups, faiths, cultures and ages.

We now have a committed group of women willing to make a difference to both communities with support from Hyrstmount Junior School and Carlinghow Junior and Infants school who identified the need to make links between this project and schools.



## What are we doing next?

- Encouraging children from both schools to share interests
- Cookery classes teaching people how to prepare dishes from around the world including a recipe share and tasting session
- Development of an 'East West' recipe book to be sold in both schools to help raise funds for them
- An residential trip to the Northern College
- A library and community centre exhibition of diversity to display cultural artefacts from across the community.

Shaping our future **Together**  
Kirklees community cohesion strategy

