

**Many local authorities and neighbourhoods now have Social Inclusion Plans, and the UK is about to update its National Plan for the EU. How do we efficiently manage social inclusion plans? What are the key points in social inclusion strategies and what are the essential elements of a plan?**

To answer this, Merseyside Expanding Horizons in partnership with Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI), held a 'Delivering Social Inclusion' training day for the community, voluntary and public sector to look at the essential elements of a social inclusion plan. The training day was delivered by Dave Simmonds, a Director from CESI.

Dave Simmonds has been involved in social exclusion, labour market, and regeneration policy for the last 16 years. He has sat on a wide range of task groups and advisory groups from the MSC, European programmes, TECs, and New Deal. He was a Special Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education and Employment, and has advised the Department for Work and Pensions on the development of Employment Zones and Action Teams. Dave was co-author of *Employability Through Work and Regeneration Through Work*, key reports influencing the development of Personal Job Accounts, and transitional employment. Previously Dave was interim Director for England at the National Lottery Charities Board, and before that the Director of Policy for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

### Dave took us back to basics...

#### Three Views of Social Inclusion:

**RED**, or redistributionist, has an emphasis on income inequality and poverty reduction.

**MUD**, or moral underclass, claims that poverty and exclusion are caused by the behaviour of individuals and their 'subcultures'.

**SID**, or social integrationist, which is about equal participation and equal access to opportunities, with an emphasis on labour market participation.

#### Roots of Exclusion:

**Institutional Exclusion** – where the policies and practices of organisations, especially public agencies, lead to the intended or unintended exclusion of groups and individuals.

**Discriminatory Exclusion** – where the views, perceptions and decisions of individuals and groups lead to exclusion.

**Individualised Exclusion** – where the attitudes, practices and attributes of the individual compounds or creates their exclusion.

#### Social Inclusion: A definition from the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU)

*"Social inclusion is achieved when individuals or areas do not suffer from negative effects of unemployment, poor skills, low income, poor housing, crime, bad health, family problems, limited access to services and rurality, e.g. remoteness, sparsity, isolation and high costs."* **Social Exclusion Unit**

#### A European definition of Social Inclusion

- Social Inclusion is giving citizens opportunity and security
- Opportunities to fulfil their, and their families potential throughout life.
- Security for when choices and opportunities are limited – because of sickness, because of unemployment, and in old age.

# Context

## 1) National Context: What's Working and What Isn't?

### What's working?

- Reducing unemployment
- Education attainment
- Narrowing (some) gaps

### What isn't Working?

- Low educational attainment in some groups
- Economic inactivity
- Concentrations of crime in some areas
- Homelessness
- Continuing support

### Key Points

- Improve service design and delivery
- Client-centred approach – how to use more in mainstream services?
- Three groups where policies are less effective
  1. people with physical and mental health problems
  2. people with lack of skills
  3. some BME communities, including refugees

## 2) Objectives and Priorities (various sources)

### Europe: National Action Plans Four Common Objectives

1. Facilitate access to resources, rights, goods, and services
2. To prevent the risk of exclusion
3. To help the most vulnerable
4. To mobilise all relevant bodies

### 2004 Joint Report on Social Inclusion: 6 key Priorities

1. Promoting investment in and active labour market measures to meet the needs of those who have the greatest difficulties in accessing employment;
2. Ensuring that social protection schemes are adequate and accessible for all and that they provide effective work incentives for those who can work;
3. Increasing the access of the most vulnerable and those most at risk of social exclusion to decent housing, quality health and lifelong learning opportunities;
4. Implementing a concerted effort to prevent early school leaving and to promote smooth transition from school to work;
5. Developing a focus on ending child poverty
6. Making a drive to reduce poverty and social exclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities

### 2004 Joint Report on Social Inclusion

- A truly multidimensional approach requires more attention on:
  - Housing
  - Lifelong learning
  - Culture
  - Transport
  - e-inclusion

- Targets should be increasingly specific, quantified and ambitious
- Monitoring efficiency and quality of measure
- Social inclusion goals and expenditure priorities
- Consultation with stakeholders should extend to implementation and monitoring
- Economic, employment and social policies need to be mutually reinforcing.

### **UK Plan: Adding Value**

- Sets out Government's strategic approach
- The NAP should add value –does it?
- Third UK NAP due in 2006
- Inputs needed in 2005
- Drafting March 2006 and submit June 2006

### **Future Challenges**

- Have we identified the most important emerging/future risks for social exclusion beyond 2004?
- What new policy could be used to help reverse trends which are stable or even worsening?
- What should be the most important priorities for social exclusion policy now? What is not, or is no longer, a priority?

## **Key Elements in Social Inclusion**

**Here, Dave Simmonds lists the key elements that need to be considered when devising a social inclusion plan.**

### **What's Important? Key Lessons to date in Tackling Social Inclusion:**

1. Mainstreaming
2. Flexibility of service delivery
3. Client-centred
4. New delivery routes
5. Devolution of decision-making

### **What to think about - Delivery:**

- Partnerships for promoting inclusion
- User engagement e.g. citizen panels etc
- Influencing mainstream agencies
- Developing intermediaries
- Capacity building of community sector
- Neighbourhood management
- Consultation methods
- Outreach capacity
- 'Market' research
- Volunteering
- Participation in volunteering processes

## What to think about - Activities:

- Financial exclusion and debt
- Information technology exclusion
- Access to broadband
- Employer perception /discrimination
- Neighbourhood management
- Specific support for disadvantaged groups
- Access to information, advice and guidance
- Retail outlets in deprived communities
- Healthy lifestyles: physical and mental
- Sport and recreation

## What to think about - Social Indicators:

- Distribution of income (income quintile ratio)
- Persistence of low income
- Median low income gap
- Regional cohesion
- Long term unemployment rate
- People living in jobless households
- Early school leavers not in further education or training
- Life expectancy at birth
- Self perceived health status

## Local Government Association (LGA) 2001 Survey (295 responses)

75% reported that social inclusion was a corporate priority

63% had developed a strategy

A third of these were anti-poverty strategies

A third had developed indicators

8% had conducted a Best Value cross-cutting review

71% established a Local Strategic Partnership

[www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

## Useful Contacts

**Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion (CESI) - [www.cesi.org.uk](http://www.cesi.org.uk), Director: [dave.simmonds@cesi.org.uk](mailto:dave.simmonds@cesi.org.uk)**

CESI works with the public sector, voluntary organisations, business and trade unions, developing policy and strategy and works closely with the Government to implement ideas. Also works with people delivering policy on the ground.

**Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) - [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk)**

Responsible for local and regional government, housing, planning, regeneration, social exclusion and neighbourhood renewal.

**Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) - [www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk](http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk)**

Set up by the Prime Minister in 1997, the work of the Social Exclusion Unit includes specific projects to tackle specific issues and wide-ranging programmes to assess past policy and identify future trends.

**Local Government Association (LGA) - [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)**

LGA is a voluntary lobbying organisation provides access to comprehensive information on all issues affecting local government in England and Wales. Good source of data for key publications, policies and government activities.

**If you have any queries about our *Delivering Social Inclusion* event, Social Inclusion Plans or the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2006 contact MEH Communications & Events Officer Rosina Ndukwe.**

Merseyside Expanding Horizons  
Suite 616—619  
Cotton Exchange  
Old Hall Street  
Liverpool  
L3 9LQ

Tel: 0151 330 0552

Fax: 0151 284 2674

Email:

[info@expandinghorizons.co.uk](mailto:info@expandinghorizons.co.uk)



[www.expandinghorizons.co.uk](http://www.expandinghorizons.co.uk)

