

## **Community Cohesion Policy**

Our vision for Islington is a cohesive and inclusive community where diversity is valued. It is a place where there are strong and positive relationships between people of all backgrounds and identities. Where residents, workers and students feel a sense of common belonging, have a voice and are able to participate fully in the social, civic and economic life of the community. It is a place where all people have similar life opportunities and inequality is addressed.

### **Tackling inequality**

We will promote community cohesion by continuing to tackle inequality in the borough. Poor outcomes for particular groups in areas such as housing, employment, health, education and community safety can lead to disengagement and disenfranchisement. We are working hard with our partners to address these challenges and remain committed to our over-arching priority of creating a fairer Islington.

### **Valuing diversity**

The borough's diversity is one of its greatest strengths and assets. As a community leader we will publicly recognise and support the unique contributions that different communities make to the social, cultural and economic wealth of the borough.

We recognise the importance of relationships within communities defined by particular characteristics such as ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. These bonds are the foundation for shared identities and values. They are the starting point for engagement with the wider community.

### **Positive community relations**

Community cohesion is also about the quality of the relationships between people with different identities and characteristics which can include age, disability, ethnicity/race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

We recognise that people have multiple identities and within every group there is diversity. For example, disabled people are also characterised by their age, gender and socio-economic status.

Good community cohesion involves the creation of bridges between communities, or between one community and the rest of the population. We are committed to providing opportunities for people from different communities to interact and work together.

### **Sense of belonging**

Community cohesion involves a sense of common belonging, a connection to the local area and an engagement with local organisations and groups. We will encourage engagement in local organisations and help to create a borough and council that is inclusive and representative of the diversity that we value.