

# Working with Communities

## CVE in the UK

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✓ **TRUST**

✓ **SUPPORT**

✓ **CONFIDENCE**

## ✓ **TRUST**

Don't engage on CVE only, contact with communities must not just be through the lens of security and terrorism

Communities may have a range of problems and 'unmet needs' for many these can be more pressing and relevant than CVE

Dialogue must be open and honest  
explain the local risk, threat and challenges

CVE strategy should be transparent – can you publish local strategy online?

Strategy must be balanced (but **risk-based**) between the dominant issues of Far Right Extremism and Islamist

## ✓ **SUPPORT**

Communities may need funding, but often practical support is better

"Teaching a person to fish....."

Give them the skills and training to be heard – amplify their voices:

Twitter

YouTube

Facebook

**Respect their independence** – they are receiving support from Municipalities, but they are not representatives or mouthpieces for Govt.

They are 'critical friends' – expect some criticism on issues, including CVE

Be aware of the risks these groups can face, not just from other groups but also from the media and plan for this.

## ✓ **CONFIDENCE – the UK approach**

What is 'Community Engagement'?

- be approachable

- be available – even out of hours, but set expectations

- be visible

Have a reference group between community organisations and municipality, covering all issues including CVE.

- must be meaningful flow of info back into communities

Community Advisory Group – specific to CVE

- invite influential community members and activists

- include youth group(s)

Establish 'quick-time' communication networks (i.e. WhatsApp groups) for fast and wide dissemination of information and to dispel CVE myths.

## ✘ BEWARE

Self-appointed 'Community Leaders' – they can be Gatekeepers not Gateways

Engage with every relevant group, but be aware of community politics & rivalries and manage expectations

Some groups may not engage with you if you're engaging with a perceived rival, but Municipalities should be totally objective

**Most importantly** – be realistic and don't expect instant results – engagement and trust take months and sometime years to establish  
staff consistency can be vital to build trusted relationships

**END**