

## Actions from Community Meeting

# Todmorden Together Group

13 February 2019

### Present:

		Jan Murray	Churches Together
Steve Sweeney	Councillor	Melissa Wells	AHT, THS
Susan Press	Councillor	Sharon Pickles	Safeguarding Lead, THS
Carol Machell	Councillor	Chris Madden	Police
Andy Hollis	Mayor of Todmorden	Robin Harbeen	
Alice Leadbitter	Headteacher – Todmorden CofE	Penny Merrington	
Kirsten Fussing	Neighbourhood Coordinator	Anna Law	Police
Sail Suleman	Hate Crime Co-ordinator	Mary Carrigan	Councillor
Ken Eastwood	Town Clerk	Claire Connolly	THS
Debra Todd	THS	Diana Moneryn	
Gill Shirt	Headteacher – THS	Sabina Meer	
Diane Tremayne	Councillor	Jake Womack	Head of EPR, THS
Steve Sweeney	Councillor	Julia Grieve	
Emma Hygate	Prevent	Sadia Hussain	Prevent
Derek Benn	Calderdale	Marie Gresty	

**Apologies:** Jon Hairsine, Nadeem Mir, Janet Leggett, David Mayhew, Emily Rawlinson, Leanne Maude, Helen Madden

### **Background**

#### ***Gill Shirt, Headteacher Todmorden High School***

Welcome was extended to all, and a background and introduction offered. Focus of coming together was to discuss common issues and concerns, share solutions and raise aspirations within the community, by way of a pro-active and cohesive approach.

#### ***Discussion points were offered as open to the floor***

**Drug use:** Concerns around the use of drugs was raised, prompting thoughts and views from many. The involvement of young people was felt to be of particular concern; the Safeguarding Officer at Todmorden High School offered their view and shared their knowledge and experience to date making reference to young people acting 'as runners' for older others and the involvement of gangs. The Police responded with their view and shared their prevention and intervention strategies and their awareness of the situation to date. Lines of reporting were shared to all, online, via Crimestoppers and so forth. Questions were raised as to joined up communication, and awareness overall. It was felt that older, ex pupils are instigating this and involving younger others. Concerns around the number of 'known' receiving and exchange points (for drugs) was shared, multiple places were cited and known by many, which again was felt concerning. Ways to report via Social Media were again promoted, THS pledged to support this also. 'Prison, no way' was mentioned as a positive preventative strategy, the Police mentioned additional visits to assemblies and scheduled talks, ways to share the message in many forms were suggested and received positively.

**Safer, Greener:** Safer, Greener, Cleaner Partnership was referred to, a group that look at local problems, currently without an educational representative – they would be available to come out to schools and undertake on site talks to assist. Many ways in which students could engage were referred to. *Marie Gresty, Youth Worker at Calderdale spoke positively about the Youth Club and current levels of interest ([marie.gresty@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:marie.gresty@calderdale.gov.uk)).*

**Todmorden College:** Attention was drawn to the College and how this was set to re-open and offer a variety of activities, more help and assistance needed. This will offer apprenticeships, practical skills, garden produce and generally a base and another option for local people.

**Raising Aspirations Bid-** two primary heads put in a bid to Calderdale Strategic Partnership Board but it was turned down, Members asked the meeting how they could pledge support.

**Roadshow:** A Careers Roadshow was discussed along with a bid which had been submitted but returned (THS to assist). A joined up event was suggested, a prevent type event with stallholders, careers stalls and other activities could be put together to champion the many options available to all in the locality, and also signpost folk to the right place in terms of next steps in education and career. Social media would help to shape this strategy and THS would assist. Many clubs and activities in the area were referred to, many present had individual knowledge of different events, which then led to the suggestion to join these activities up and promote. In summary the following actions were agreed:

1. *THS would share with all present the actions and the minutes, unite the group (GSH)*
2. *Assistance would be provided in bid writing to promote aspiration (DTO)*
3. *Event/market stall for June would be proposed and researched (CJC)*
4. *Social media campaign would begin, highlighting the actions agreed above on promotion (DTO)*

Thanks were extended to all who attended. Further actions and meetings would follow in due course.