

CoAct Event Report

The first CoAct Conference took place at Tees Valley Community Church (TVCC), Oakwood Centre from 10am to 3.30pm on Saturday 13th November 2010.

The theme of the day was 'Reaching Out, Building Bridges'. More than 250 faith organisations (churches, mosques, etc) were invited across faiths and denominations, additionally SAFER partnerships for each district were invited and a general invitation was sent to Cleveland Police Authority. Just over 100 persons confirmed they would attend, and most of these arrived on the day. A small number of people attended that had not previously confirmed. Invitations were sent by post and email.

The mail shots were backed up by a press release which resulted in a 20 minute chat on BBC Radio Tees Sunday Morning faith program three weeks before the event, an article in the Cleveland Police 'Informant' magazine two weeks before the event, then an internal email 'Message to All' plus an Evening Gazette article one week prior to the event.

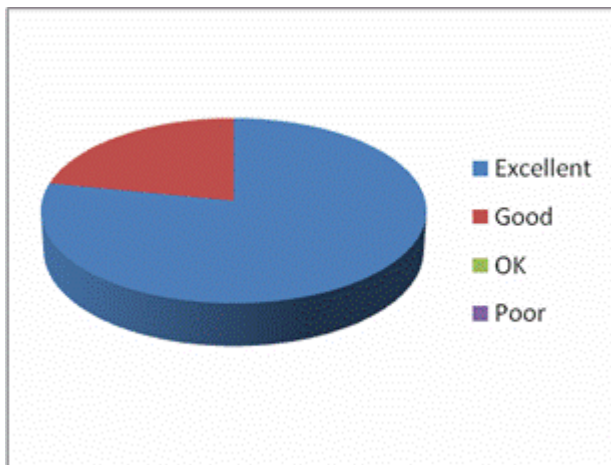
In addition, thanks to M8 Communities team, who spread the invitation around council diversity representatives and faith groups including personal visits at Friday prayers to encourage attendance from members of the Muslim community. A Cleveland Police volunteer spent two half days in the week preceding the event telephoning faith groups to encourage attendance. Finally flyers were sent to each district neighbourhood team to circulate around places of worship.

From the 107 guests who attended 32 feedback slips were returned (30%).

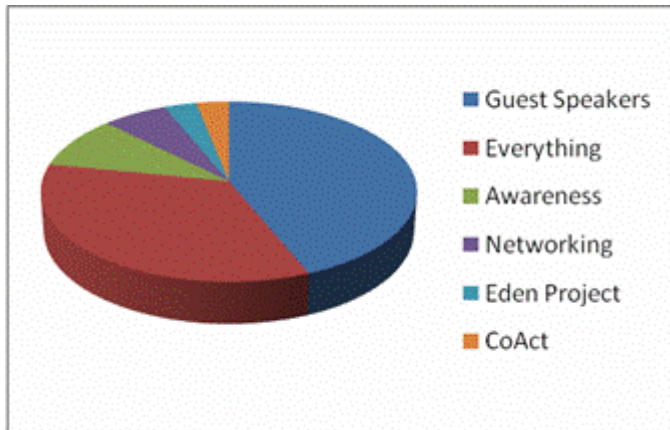
The feedback sheet questions were:

1. How would you rate the event? Excellent/Good/OK/Poor
2. What did you enjoy most?
3. What would you like to see included in a future event?

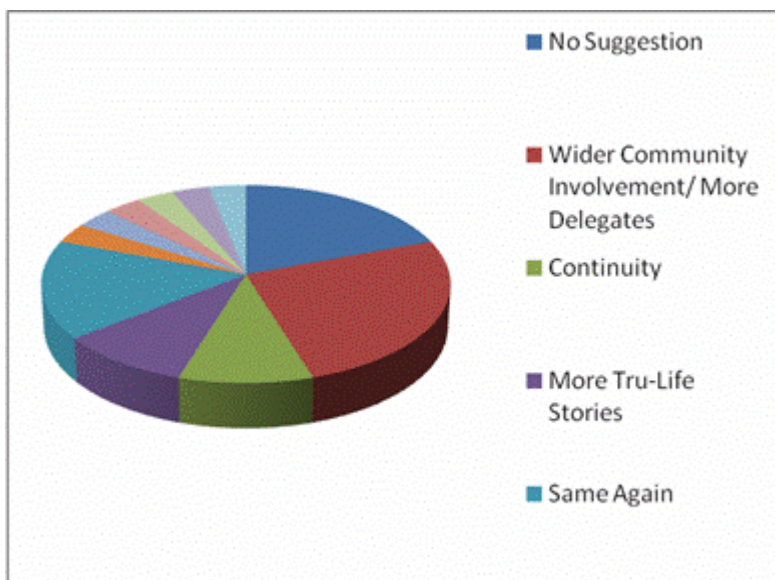
Q1 25 returns (78%) rated the conference as 'Excellent' and 7 returns (22%) rated it as 'Good' no returns rated the event as 'OK' or 'Poor'.



Q2 'What the delegates enjoyed most' - In total Guest Speakers were rated highest with 15 returns (47%) 8 of these returns (25%) rated 'Sowing Seeds/Gram Seed' as their favourite part of the day, 11 returns (34%) rated 'Everything about the day', 3 returns (9%) rated 'Awareness', 2 returns (7%) rated 'Networking', and 1 return rated 'Eden Project'. On the day of the event, the calibre of the guest speakers was widely praised.



Q3 – Future Events – Most returns stated a future event would benefit from wider focus and wider community involvement in the form of more delegates from all faith groups across all four districts. 3 returns (10%) called for continuity from this event. A further 3 returns (10%) wanted more true-life stories. One notable comment stated 'It would be hard to improve on this event' another said 'Everything was great'.



A debt of thanks is due to the excellent guest speakers.

In summary:

ACC White outlined Team Cleveland values and challenged delegates to speak with two people they hadn't met previously.

Paul Bright presented on the seven strands of CoAct.

Steve Brock thanked Cleveland Police for their support in getting the Stockton Town Pastors (STP) initiative off the ground, STP was widely praised by other guest speakers.

Gram Seed told the delegates 'YES' – stating 'You Educate Society' and showed a DVD presentation of Sowing Seeds Ministry (SSM) work in prisons, schools and Teesside estates.

Retired Police Officer, and SSM employee, Eric Young underlined the importance of engagement, discipline and honesty.

TVCC Senior Leader Martin Dunkley expressed appreciation for Cleveland Police and gave an open invitation to the neighbourhood teams to refer people in need. He detailed the need for integrity, honesty, vetting, training, evaluation and monitoring to effectively deliver meaningful outreach. Martin also shared an impactful Ministry Showcase DVD.

Tony Grainge shared the Eden plans for a family to sell their detached house in Eaglescliffe and move to Easterside and continue the ongoing social outreach.

Helen Conroy talked of Stockton Outreach for Families and Schools (SOFAS), with touching examples of school uniforms for six children to get them into school and an excellent holiday break with 10 families who had never previously left Teesside!

Steve Tipping of Christians Against Poverty called for the help of the audience – by referring people in debt crisis to TVCC for free debt counselling and support. Insp Andy Fox related his experiences of the Town Pastors and underlined the need for sharing information and effective partnership working.

In addition thanks go to the 15 exhibitors, who were:

Neighbourhood Policing officers from all four districts, each with a separate display.

Boro Angels

Stockton Town Pastors

Away Out

Prevent

Crime Prevention/ Neighbourhood Watch

Christian Police Association/ COACT

Sowing Seeds Ministry

SOFAS

Eden Project

3 Score Years and 10

Christians Against Poverty

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Overall, the event was valued and very well received. The numerous items of verbal feedback on the day were echoed in the written feedback. The Regional Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator was very impressed with the event and stated he will be feeding back to National NHW regarding his positive experience. An Independent Advisory Group (IAG) representative was also very impressed and stated he will be feeding back to the National IAG at a meeting next week.

Ministry speakers were unashamedly Christian in their approach; however the overwhelming message was undoubtedly that they wish to help all people regardless of beliefs or status. This goal unequivocally resonates with our aims as a police service. There is an obvious desire to improve Cleveland Force Area communities through growing relationships and fair treatment for those who find themselves vulnerable or marginalised, for whatever reason.

A reoccurring theme throughout the day was that the church based social outreach work being discussed was consistently reaching those termed 'hard to reach'. Proposing that people can be coerced, channelled and restrained on the outside, but those same people are more consistently reached from the inside, in their home environment with the support of positive role models they can relate to.

A lot of prayers have been said in preparation, and we thank God for a successful event. Thanks for enabling the event go to TVCC, ACC Sean White, Cleveland Police (CP) Executive, CP Authority, CP Staff Equality Forum, CP Federation, CP Neighbourhood Policing Teams, CP Cadets, CP Press Office, CP Digital Imaging Services, and Mellor's Catering. Particular thanks go to Heather Clynch, Sgt Christian Ellis, Sue Sorrell, Cath Howard, Keith Howard, Colin Naisbitt, Frank Levey, John Carter, Adam Conroy, House Group, and Mike Quinnell for action planning, support, encouragement and physical presence.

We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to the day, the list is too long to include here.

Already this morning feedback has come from a PCSO from Hartlepool District who met six people from their beat area through the event and reported that a new link has been made where they have been invited to a church 'friendship group' which meets on Wednesdays, and a police officer from Stockton District who thought 'the event was wonderful' and who has made a new link on their beat area.

Kind regards,

Brian

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