Trends and Foresight

Report 1 – Community Cohesion Prepared for Big Lottery Fund January 2014



COMMUNITY COHESION



Introduction

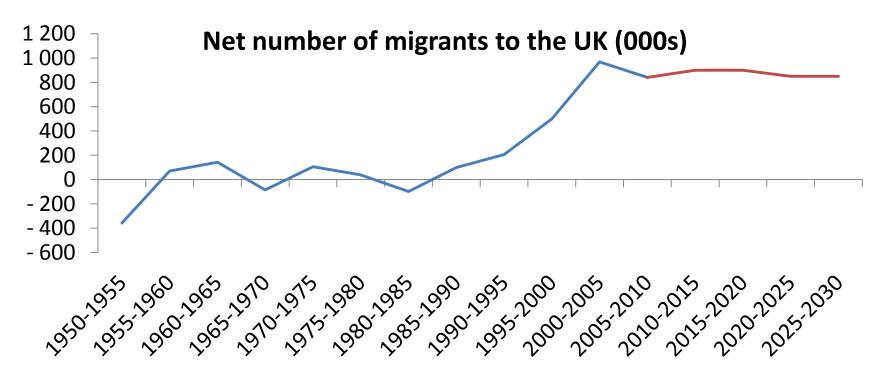
- Historically, the UK has often been a net importer of people, but the trend for inbound migration increased substantially after the 1990s.
- This has contributed to a rise in ethnic diversity and the foreign born population in England and Wales – which rose to 13.4% in the 2011 census.
- UN forecasts expect immigration to maintain its current high level in the future, despite political sentiment being to reduce immigration in the long term.
- These trends in diversity and immigration are central to this topic of cohesion and tolerance.



Migration

Historically, migration to the UK has been very high over the past 10-15 years. This trend has been one of the main drivers of population growth and the baby boom.

Although there are ambitions at government level to reduce net immigration, this is difficult to do, and the latest forecasts from the UN do not forecast a significant drop over the next twenty years



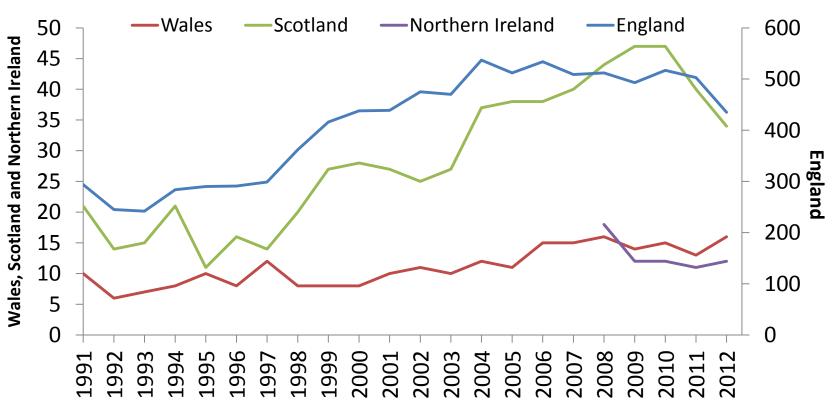
Source: UN world population prospects



Multiculturalism and immigration

The vast majority of this immigration has been within England, although recently, both Scotland and Northern Ireland have seen falls

Long-term international migration by area of destination



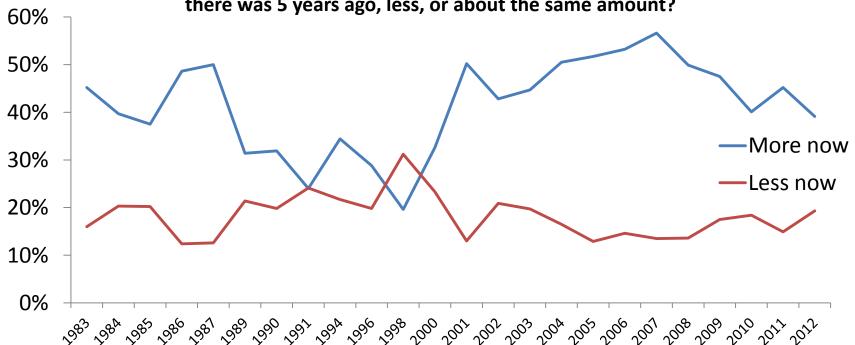
Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Home Office, Central Statistics Office (CSO) Ireland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).



Community Cohesion – Prejudice

The last decade has seen a substantial and sustained rise in the proportion of people in the UK who believe there is more racial prejudice in the UK than previously. Although in recent years this has declined to 39%, it is still almost twice as high as the record low (20% in 1998)

Do you think there is generally more racial prejudice in Britain now than there was 5 years ago, less, or about the same amount?

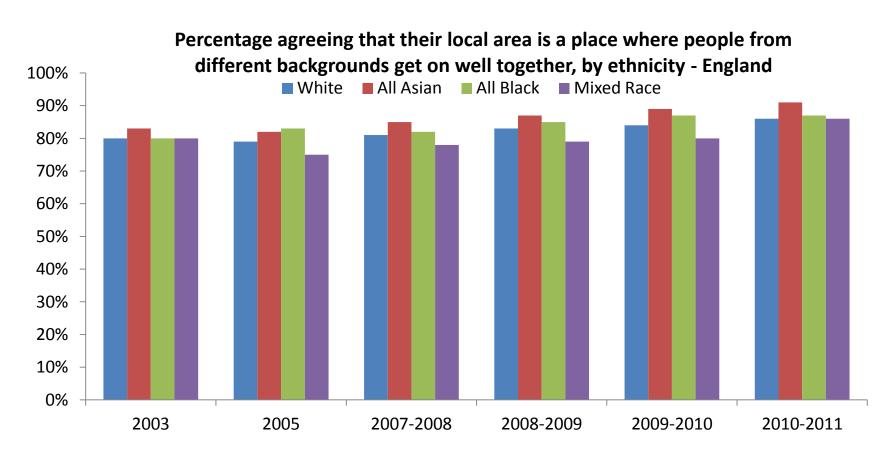


Source: British Social Attitudes 2012



Community Cohesion

Despite a general sense that prejudice is increasing, the majority of people (including ethnic minorities) believe England is a tolerant society



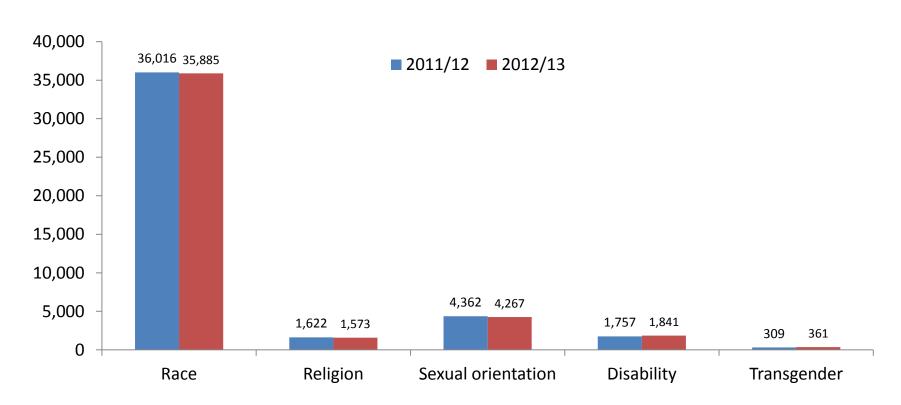
Source: Citizenship Survey: April 2010 - March 2011, England



Hate Crime

Racially motivated crimes remain the biggest single type of hate crime, although there has been no significant increase in reported incidents over the last two years

Recorded hate crime incidents, by nature (England and Wales only)



Source: Home Office, ONS and Ministry of Justice, Dec 2013



Emerging areas of need

- The rise in immigration in the 1990s correlated with a rise in the number of people believing that there was more racial prejudice in the country than previously – although this has started to decline, it remains high.
- Paradoxically, however, the vast majority of people (from a range of ethnicities) believe the UK to be a generally tolerant society. This implies that while overall, British society is seen as cohesive and tolerant, many still identify prejudice and intolerance as important issues.
- A related issue is the growth in the number of children who speak English as an Additional Language (i.e. English is not their first language). This is explored in more depth in the Education section.



Thank You

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