



Intercultural Cities Network

Joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission

Lewisham's participation - 2011 to date

What is Intercultural Cities?

As communities across Europe grow increasingly diverse, the way they manage diversity becomes a key challenge for the future. Successful cities and societies of the future will be intercultural: they will be capable of managing and exploring the potential of their cultural diversity to stimulate creativity and innovation and thus generate economic prosperity and a better quality of life. Diversity can be a resource for the development of a city if the public discourse, the city's institutions and processes, and the behaviour of people, take diversity positively into account.

Intercultural Cities Impact on Lewisham.

For a borough which already embraces 'diversity as a strength' our involvement in the ICC network has provided the opportunity to challenge how and why we put diversity at the heart of our work and stimulate debate on what we could be doing better.

Lewisham's Impact on Intercultural Cities.



Over the past two years of being a member of the ICC network Lewisham has had the opportunity to host and attend visits focused on various themes. Participation has been made possible through the financial support of the Renewal Group. Lewisham's involvement will continue as the network looks for additional funding and opportunities for staff exchange continue to be developed.

At the start of the process Lewisham staff helped complete the [Lewisham Intercultural Index](#) with the results looking at both the strengths and opportunities for change in the borough. We now have the opportunity to update the results by revisiting the questionnaire and by filling any gaps.

To be involved in updating the Intercultural Cities Index please contact Paul Chapman on ext 48525 or paul.chapman@lewisham.gov.uk

The key ICC event involving Lewisham was hosting the ICC Study Visit in May 2012 which was attended by 35 visitors from 15 different countries and involved around 30 staff and 10 external experts. This provided the opportunity for staff to explain in more detail the work they carry out which contributes to Lewisham's promotion of the 'diversity advantage'.

In addition, Lewisham staff have participated as expert contributors to the following events;

- Dublin, Intercultural Cities Study Visit - Sept 2011 (2 staff)
- Stockholm, Intercultural Buildings - Nov 2011 (1 staff)
- Regio Emilia, Summer School - Oct 2011 (1 staff & 2 Young Mayor reps)
- Lisbon, Community Safety - Sept 2012 (2 staff)
- Barcelona, Summer School - Sept 2012 (1 staff)
- San Sebastian, Intercultural Business - Oct 2012 (1 staff & 1 Business rep)
- The Renewal Group presented at an event on Public Space in Venice.
- The Lewisham ICC representative attended four ICC Coordinators meetings in Strasbourg and Brussels.
- Lewisham also organised the ICC Youth Photography event working with 3 other ICC cities (including visits to Tilburg and Patras) on promoting the ICC project through the photography of local young people.
- Dublin, ICC Milestone Event - Feb 2013 (3 staff & 1 Business Rep).

This high profile event, organised in conjunction with Ireland's presidency of the EU, was an opportunity to showcase some of the most effective measures developed through the network. Lewisham was asked to provide experts to help deliver workshops and seminars on Developing an Intercultural Strategy, Intercultural Approaches to Business and Economic Development and



Intercultural Urban Planning and Place Making.

Lewisham is also continuing to find new opportunities directly and indirectly through our involvement the network;

- Copenhagen, Crime and Community Safety - March 2013 (1 staff + 1 Met Police rep)
- Cllr Egan was invited to speak at the Council of Europe's Local and Regional Govt Forum in Strasbourg in March 2013.
- Lewisham and Goldsmiths University will be attending an ICC Universities and Evaluation event in Hungary in June 2013.
- Lewisham has been asked to join two EU funding applications related to the subject and led by the Council of Europe.
- Ongoing invitations to work with the ICC national network in the Ukraine
- Links with youth organisations in Japan who have held an exhibition featuring ICC themed photos taken by Lewisham young people.
- Lewisham has also been asked to host an Intercultural Faith Forum in spring 2014.

In addition best practice from Lewisham has been included in the following ICC publications:

[The Outcomes and Impact of the Intercultural Cities Programme 2008-2013](#)

[Knowing Lewisham](#) – the initial report from 2007 in which Comedia outlined some practical Intercultural lessons for the development of public space in Deptford. This report had a direct influence on subsequent work including the Deptford Lounge and Giffin Square development.

[Profile of Intercultural Innovators](#) – which references projects delivered in Lewisham.