

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Darlington **UNITY** group.

The UNITY group is made up of representatives from cultural associations, community leaders and others with an interest in improving **community cohesion** in Darlington. Representatives from Durham Police and Darlington Borough Council also attend so they can keep the group informed about their work.

What is **community cohesion**? At a very basic level it's about us all living alongside each other, understanding each other and having a 'live and let live' attitude. At a deeper level it's about us all reducing the tensions that sometimes arise between communities and everyone being able to be who they want to be and reach their potential – equality of opportunity!

The UNITY group wants to spread their message beyond just the group to give everyone in Darlington a chance to find out about what events might be happening and give YOU a chance to put forward ideas. We want you to read about what we are doing, but more importantly we want YOU to tell us what YOU think we should be doing.

If you represent a group or community, we'd also like you to consider joining our group to ensure their collective voice is heard.

If you have any questions about this newsletter or want to find

out more about **UNITY** please contact –

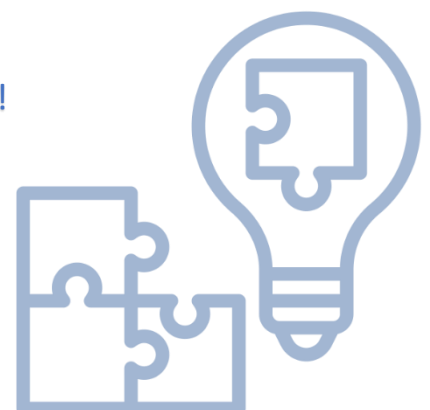


Andrew Allison on 07384 797779



or e-mail Benjamin Scott - darlingtonunity@durham.police.uk

Enjoy reading the newsletter and keep a look out for the next one!



Afghan Families

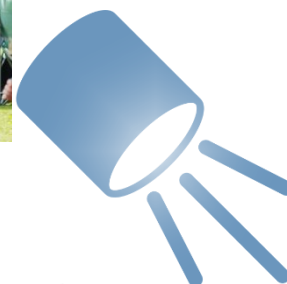
Darlington is preparing to welcome four families displaced as a result of the conflict in Afghanistan. The UNITY group agreed to extend a warm welcome to them and offer assistance in anyway they could. It was recognised that there are some in the town who will not be happy about this news, but it was the role of the UNITY group and others to ensure that it is support and friendship that wins the day, not mistrust and hatred.

For more on this story – www.darlington.gov.uk and look at the 'View all News' at the bottom of the homepage. You can also search 'Afghan Families' on the Northern Echo website to see the work of the Darlington Veterans' Community and the generosity of local people.



Darlington PRIDE 2021

After a low key 2020 PRIDE, this year it was back, and it was bigger and better! A great range of entertainment on stage and plenty of stalls in the marketplace on the Saturday; a chilled-out picnic in the park on Sunday; a fun filled evening in the bars and clubs on Monday night.



For more on this story – www.facebook.com/Darloprideweekender/

National Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW) – 9th to 16th October 2021

Durham Police and Darlington Borough Council are organising a week-long series of online events focussing on HATE CRIME. Monday will see keynote speakers 'launch' the event and then each subsequent day will offer an opportunity for professionals and key members of our communities to learn about: reporting a hate crime and the police response; how a hate crime case is handled by the Crown Prosecution Service; what support is available to victims of hate incidents and crimes. On Friday there will be a 'summary of the week' and a chance to ask questions to a panel of subject experts. Members of the UNITY group will be involved in the planning of the event and many will be attending each days' events.

There will also be a couple of announcements made during the week which should help demonstrate that things are moving forward and fighting HATE in Darlington is still a priority, especially for the UNITY group.

More info. about Hate Crime www.durham.police.uk Learn more about HCAW - www.stophateuk.org

