



## Monitoring Community Tension

In Rotherham we're always monitoring for community tension, and as a front line worker it's likely that you'll see any tensions in communities when they are in their infancy, giving us a real opportunity to prevent tension early.

If you work for the council or in partner services such as education, health or voluntary and community sectors, please be aware of any potential community tensions and report them to [Community.SafetyTeam@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Community.SafetyTeam@rotherham.gov.uk)

### What is community tension?

Community tension is an event that may threaten the peace and stability of communities and lead to disorder or crime. It can develop when a lack of trust develops between different communities or the institutions they rely on.

### Why monitor community tensions?

There is the potential for tensions to arise in all communities which may lead to conflict, increase community fears or anxiety and damage community cohesion. The nature of tensions will differ from one area to another.

We need to be able to track and monitor local trends and hot spots, alongside any national or international events which may threaten cohesion. This allows us to manage tensions on the basis that early intervention can make a real difference in preventing incidents of public disorder and in keeping communities safe.



### Arrangements in Rotherham

Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Police produce a joint assessment of community tensions. We respond to issues which may threaten community cohesion and safety. Information may come from staff in partner organisations, from councillors, schools and voluntary, community and faith sector contacts. The information we collate helps us to get a true picture of community feelings, reported crimes or incidents and potential future problems.

### What sort of information is relevant?

If you see flyers, posters, graffiti, hate abuse incidents or hateful content circulating on social media around local groups where people are seeking to cause divisions in our local communities, this is all relevant to us.

You might see evidence of tensions between specific communities, such as different ethnic communities, faith groups or people living in different areas. You may see a rise in criminal activity in a particular area, such as a spate of crime or increasing gang activity.

Issues could be of a religious or racial nature, for example an increase in concerns about hate crime targeting a particular ethnicity, faith, community or group. Or you could be seeing local concerns about the effects of migration on the local area. You may also hear about local demonstrations or meetings that are relevant to us.

### How to report issues

You can email information to [community.safetyteam@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:community.safetyteam@rotherham.gov.uk), or telephone 01709 334562. If someone is in **immediate danger**, call **999**. If a child or adult is not in immediate danger but you believe a crime may have been committed, call the **Police** on **101** or report online at [www.southyorks.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/](http://www.southyorks.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/)