

# Background and development of Sheffield Faiths Forum

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SHEFFIELD FAITHS FORUM



# What we're going to say

- Why create a forum?
- Why is OFFER doing this?
- What does the forum look like?
- How has it developed?
- What is it going to try to achieve?

# Why we are here...

Create an

- effective
- co-ordinated and
- recognised voice and influence

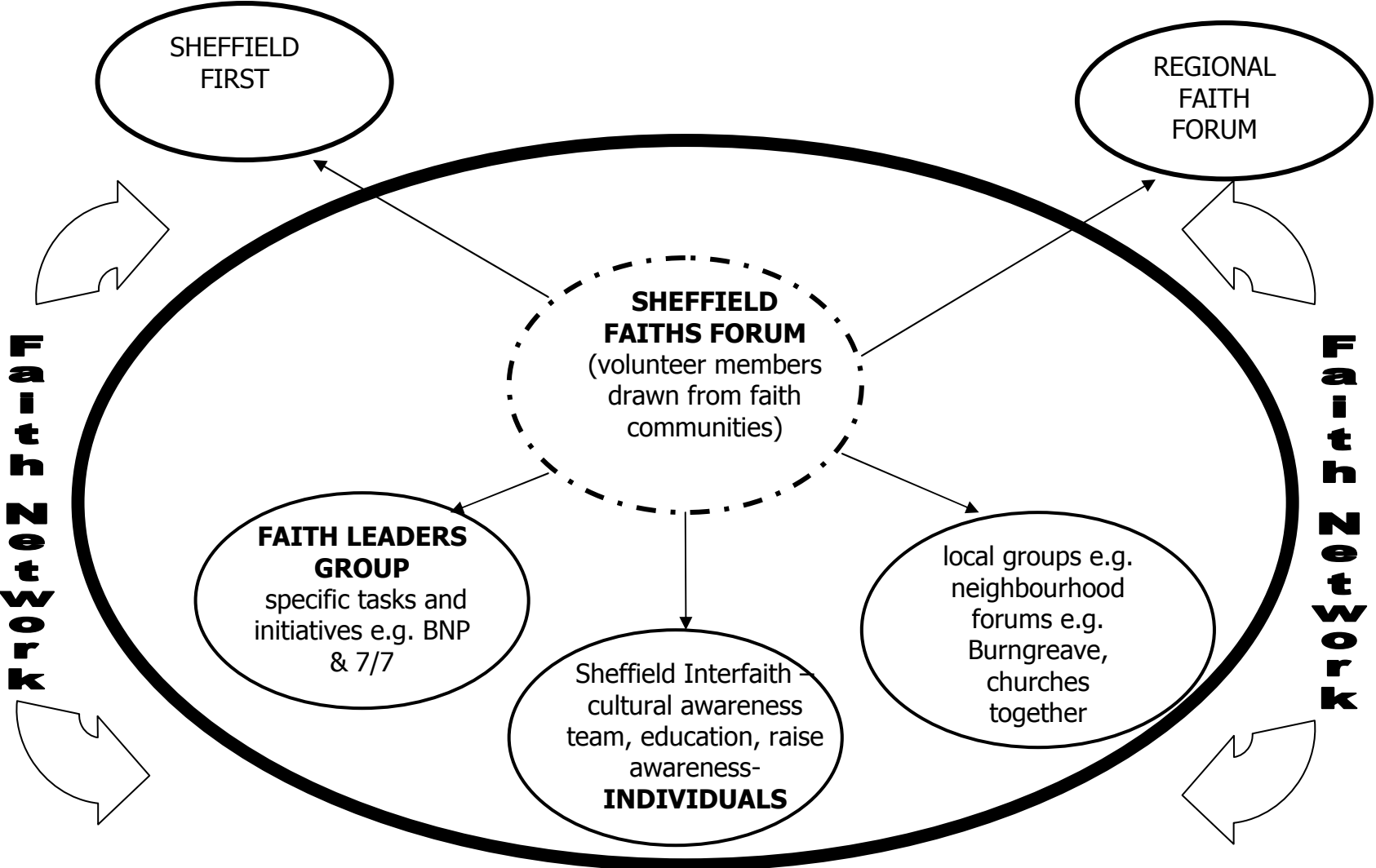
so the

- skills and
- experience of local faith communities are valued and fully utilised.

# Why OFFER?

- Create networks
- Voice of Voluntary Community, Faith (VCF) sector
- Influence and be part of key decision making
- A major gap

# Sheffield Faith Network and the Faiths Forum



# Faiths Forum seats

- Baha'i 1
- Buddhist 1
- Christian 4
- Hindu 1
- Jain / Zoroastrian 1
- Jewish 1
- Muslim 2
- Sikh 1
- Other 2

## Observers

- OFFER 1
- Sheffield City Council 1
- Sheffield Interfaith 1

**Maximum number of seats available, based on individual candidates fully meeting selection criteria.**

# How we got here...

- **Prior to 2002:** History of 'Interfaith' activity and neighbourhood initiatives
- **2002:** Research and open faith network events
- **2005:** Develop links with Bishop Jack's Faith Leaders Group
- **2006:** Appointment of Faith Network worker by multi-faith steering group.
- **2007:** Appointment of Forum members and launch

# What we are...

- Enabling
- Inclusive
- Unified but diverse
- Complementary
- Linked
- Transparent and accountable
- Effective

# What we aren't...

- Replacing the work already being done by faith and interfaith groups
- Official representatives
- Statutory agency led
- Debating our individual theologies

# Who we are...

- Volunteers, appointed through a formal, open recruitment process
- knowledgeable of our faith and influential within our faith community
- committed to working with and respecting people of other faiths, and
- engaged in the life of their city and able to contribute to its regeneration.

# Where we hope to make a difference...

- Regeneration
- Community cohesion
- Understanding
- Responding to emergencies and crises
- Benefiting wider society
- Accountable, open, transparent links

# Have your say...

- Hopes and Fears
- Informal questions
- Comments / evaluation
- Contact details