

What has Sheffield Faiths Forum been up to?

It feels like a very long 4 months since our last newsletter! Catch up below on all the developments since the spring:

Official Launch 14 March 2007

It was great to see so many of you at the launch of Sheffield Faiths Forum at the Town Hall. We had 115 attendees from 7 different faiths and excellent speeches from the Lord Mayor, Bishop Jack Nicholls and Sajda Shah from Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the evening was the conversations and networking which continued well after the formal proceedings concluded.

The 'Faiths Forum'

At the launch event we formally welcomed the 10 volunteer members of the Faiths Forum, drawn from the different faith communities across Sheffield. The Forum members have subsequently been meeting on a monthly basis where we have shared food and started to build a good rapport together.

Our initial meetings have focused on prioritising our activities for the year. Using the results of the consultation we ran with faith groups over December and January, we have taken the suggestions you have made to produce a draft work programme for the next 9 months (see over leaf). This will direct resources to support work which we hope will be effective and have an impact on strengthening the voice of local faith communities.

We want to keep in touch with the aspirations and concerns of local faith groups so please continue to let us have your comments about the work you would like to see the Faiths Forum doing (contact details over leaf).

Please note that we are still looking for voices from the Sikh community and from minority faith groups outside the nine established world religions to join the Faiths Forum – if you are interested in applying for a seat please contact us.

Neighbourhood work

At the beginning of June, Offer appointed Dave Sutton-Jones to the post of "Faith Network Neighbourhoods Worker". Dave's role is to help Sheffield Faiths Forum make an impact at a grass roots level by supporting existing, or initiating new multi-faith activity, to strengthen the voice of local faith groups and link with statutory partners. Following the direction of the Faiths Forum, he has begun to explore opportunities in Darnall, the Springfield Estate, Tinsley and Burngreave.

Other events and resources

We are occasionally approached by local faith groups and agencies to advertise their activities which may be of interest to the wider faith communities of Sheffield. Included with our mailing this month is information from Age Concern about a new service they are providing for older people.

Sheffield Faiths Forum

Draft work programme – as at June 2007

Priority issue	Planned activity	Planned events
Building a picture of faith contribution to the life of the city	One or more of: - Audit of Faith Activity / projects, Faith Sights & Sounds Project, Local faiths Booklet	
	Business case for faith representation on Sheffield First	
	Annual Faiths Forum meeting	Spring 08
Influencing Health & Social Care and emergency planning	Spiritual needs in Health and social care project	
Activity to promote faith sector contribution to supporting refugee & asylum seekers	Sanctuary and Hospitality event	Autumn 07
	Sign up to City of Sanctuary declaration	
Faith Awareness	Faith Matters training provision	Autumn 07
	Support Sheffield Interfaith re visits / open days etc	
Neighbourhood issue based meetings	Consult with local faith groups – possibly around community safety / emergency planning	Ongoing
Faiths Forum meetings	Monthly	
Publicity – newsletters/website	Sheffield Faiths Forum web site	
	Quarterly newsletter	
	Faiths Forum leaflet	
Promoting cohesion	Local anti-fascist campaigning	Spring 08
	Youth Cohesion seminars - tbc	
	“Living together” Cohesion event	Autumn 07
	Contributing to City Cohesion Strategy	
Potential to explore new issues	Faith and the Environment	
	Link with Church Action on Poverty	
	Links with universities	
	Multi-faith act of remembrance / Hiroshima Day	

Contact us:

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Our funders:

