

# Sheffield Faiths Forum ...One year on

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OFFER



# Background

- Established in March 2007
- 11 members from faith communities plus Sheffield Interfaith and Sheffield City Council
- Contributes to:
  - regeneration, community cohesion, faith awareness, responding to emergencies and crises, etc
- Funding from ChangeUp and FCCBF

# Faiths Forum

- 11 monthly meetings
- Guest speakers - Sheffield First Partnership, Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Care Trust, South Yorkshire Police, Safe Neighbourhood Team, Faith Schools
- Governing document adopted – Chair and Vice-Chair appointed
- Away day to help build relationships

# Influencing policy and decisions

- Community Cohesion (local)
  - Submitted response to consultation
  - Place on Strategy Working Group
  - Faith Schools debate
- Government Inter Faith Strategy (national)
  - Submitted response to consultation
- Audit of faith based community activity
- Links with Sheffield First

# Events

- How do we live together? Nov 07
  - Community cohesion theme
  - 50 delegates
  - Education & Dialogue Charity
- Sanctuary, Hospitality and Refuge, Dec 07
  - Refugees and Asylum seeker support
  - 50 Delegates
  - City of Sanctuary

# Neighbourhood based work

- Darnall
- Burngreave
- Sharrow
- Training for Faith Leaders and Workers

# Faith awareness

- Sight and Sounds project
- Faith Matters training (15 free places)
- Visits: Orthodox Synagogue, Hindu Samaj
- Links with schools, SACRE, training colleges, universities

# Public services

- Emergency planning
  - Major Incident Response Group
  - Flood victim support
- Spiritual Needs in residential care
  - Working with Commission for Social Care Inspection

# Communications

- Database – 400+ organisations, 370+ individuals
- Regular contact with Faith Leaders Group
- Quarterly newsletter
- [www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldfaithsforum.org.uk)
- Working on logos:



Sheffield Faiths Forum



# What we have learned

- Relationships – forum, faith communities, partners
- Benefits from working directly with local groups
- Need for long-term, sustained presence to build trust and credibility
- We can have an impact!

# The Future

- Support from OFFER / independence
- Funding opportunities – Local Area Agreement, ChangeUp
- Have your say – our priorities for the coming year