

# SHEFFIELD FAITHS FORUM

## *Timeline*

Oct 2002 - April 2003	OFFER commissions "Faith in Regeneration" report by Richard Pinder to investigate potential for work in Faith sector.
	Subsequently a number of neighbourhood multi-faith meetings were established / supported by OFFER in City Centre, Burngreave and Sharrow – to explore values that inform faith based regeneration – meetings petered out during 2005.
Feb 2004	Mike West (Director of OFFER) and Briony Broome (VCF rep on LSP) met with Bob Kerlake (Council) and Vince Taylor (LSP), who expressed support for the establishment of a Faith Network and raised the idea of possible secondment of Council staff.
Spring 2004	Development of OFFER's faith database.
	Steering Group established to organise an open event for Sheffield Faith communities – Pat Midgley (Council), Shazia Rehman (OFFER), Briony Broome, Janet Lees, Robert Beard, Dave Sutton-Jones
Nov 2004	OFFER's Faith database stands at 280 organisations.
21 Nov 2004	<b>Faith Network Event:</b> "Not before time..." – a celebration of Sheffield Faith Communities (93 delegates). £1500 contribution from Council.
	Event Feedback = pro the idea of developing Faiths Forum and wider Faith Network.
Jan 2005	OFFER commissions Robert Beard to explore different models of establishing a Faiths Forum.
	Increasing links with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheffield Interfaith</li> <li>• Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum (in development)</li> </ul>
	Formal contact established with Sheffield Faith Leaders Group (chaired by Bishop Jack). Subsequently met: April 05, 06/09/05, 25/01/06, 31/07/06, 06/12/06, 18/04/07.
12 Jun 2005	<b>Faith Network Event:</b> "Finding our voice" (50 delegates) – explored what a Faiths Forum would do eg training needs, networking events, etc
	"Faith in Action Sheffield 2005" DVD produced.
22 Sept 2005	Faiths Forum Steering Group established as sub-group of Faith Leaders Group: Mohammed Ismail, Bishop John Rawsthorne, Briony Broome, John Speyer, Shazia Rehman, and Dave Jackson.
29 Nov 2005	<b>Faith Network Event:</b> (42 delegates) – formalised plans for Faiths Forum, links to other faith bodies and the City and agreed application to 'Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund' to resource a F-T worker, governance, publications and events.
Dec 2005	Launch of Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum.
Feb 2006	Awarded 'Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund' grant of £44k to March 2007.
	Faiths Forum Steering Group re-established: Bishop John Rawsthorne, John Speyer, Briony Broome, Abdool Gooljar, Inderjit Bhogal, Dave Jackson, and Shazia Rehman. Subsequent meetings: 02/08/06, 05/09/06, 05/10/06, 09/11/06, 07/12/06, 11/01/07, 07/02/07, 07/03/07.

Jul 2006	Appointed Faith Network Development Worker.
	Engagement work with faith groups and statutory agencies.
02 Nov 2006	<b>Faith Network Event:</b> "Growing the Faiths Forum" (55 delegates). Discussed structure of proposed Forum, and launched recruitment process.
	Launched consultation exercise for Faith Groups to help prioritise work of Forum.
Dec 2006	Awarded 'Change Up – Capacity Building' grant of £60k to March 2008.
Jan 2007	Appointed 10 volunteer members to Faiths Forum (Sikh, Jain/Zoroastrian and 'Other' seats remain vacant).
Feb 2007	Induction of Faiths Forum members.
Feb 2007	Awarded 'Faith Community Capacity Building Fund' round 2 grant of £20k to March 2008.
14 Mar 2007	Faiths Forum Launch at Town Hall with 115 attendees.
Apr 2007	OFFER's Faith Database stands at 420 organisations.
12 April 2007	Monthly meetings of Faiths Forum begin.