

2015

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Annual Report

2015
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The Mosque and Community Engagement Service

This year Faith Regen has been contracted by Tower Hamlets Council to provide a service to the Mosques of Tower Hamlets. This project offers a number of different services that will help to improve the effectiveness of Mosques as community centres, and in so doing improving the outcomes for Tower Hamlets Muslim communities. The key elements of the service are:

Engaging Mosques and their congregations with a range of resources such as Employability training, English language courses, and the public health resources on offer in the borough of Tower Hamlets.

Providing training in areas of particular importance to those working for the community such as safeguarding training, Fire Marshal training and Community Leadership training.

Helping Mosques develop the resources and skills they provide to their community by providing IT training and Computers, raising Domestic Violence awareness, and engaging the community as volunteers.

Improving Governance structures by helping Mosques develop their policies and procedures, constitutions, and offering necessary accreditation such as DBS checks to meet UK regulations.

The first half of this service has been provided with great success and shall continue into 2016.



Work Program

The Work Programme is a central element of the services provided by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The Work programme is offered to individuals who have been on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for more than three months or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). The Work Programme provides, Advice, Support, Work Experience and Training to help individuals achieve steady and permanent employment.

Community Work Placements

Community Work Placements are another scheme funded by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Community Work Placements is a scheme that aims to develop the skillset of unemployed individuals by offering them practical experience of working in with local organisations that have signed up. Experience gained from this scheme offers individuals the opportunity to improve their experience and CV's and moving towards full time employment, work experience can be an important element of improving the prospects particularly among the long-term unemployed.

Creative English Hub

Faith Action a partner organisation of Faith Regen is responsible for the creation of the Creative English Alliance a collection of organisations providing creative English language tuition to UK communities dependent on specific and practical community needs. Faith Regen in Whitechapel functions as one of the key centres for these course in the Greater London area.

Creative English courses focus on the use of roleplay and active and engaging performance to provide improved language skills to participants on the course. Creative English builds participants' confidence whilst focusing on practical applications of English such as contacting the Emergency Services and everyday conversations.

U R Britain

U R Britain is a project funded by the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) to improve the integration of recent migrants into British culture. The project offers a range of courses to enable interaction between participants and the larger UK community. These courses include ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses to improve the English language skills of participants, Trips and tours of the local area and key sites of interest to improve participants confidence and understanding of their new environment, and a course covering elements of UK life, such as contemporary British culture, Lifestyle, Transport, etc. Participants were then encouraged to get involved in an exhibition sharing their experience of British culture with their family, friends and local community. This course also offered employability training by helping participants prepare or update their CVs.

Domestic Violence: A Concern for All

Following on from research carried out by Faith Regen last year, the FRF has begun a project focusing on Domestic Violence against women in BAME communities. The central discovery of Faith Regen's research last year was that there is a need for greater cultural and religious awareness incorporated into Domestic Violence awareness projects, as many victims of Domestic Violence are unaware of the support structures available to them. A lack of awareness is a key failure in combatting domestic violence but so is language difficulties, financial dependency and a number of other issues. Faith Regen's Domestic violence project aims to address these failings in a culturally sensitive way.

The elements of this project cover three main areas these are, informal counselling with a Domestic Violence worker, offering suitable training (ESOL, employability and vocational) to encourage self-sufficiency and independence, and targeted community education to raise awareness and combat DV at a community wide level.

Mosque Engagement Project

This project aims to expand the Faith Regen's success at providing training and services to Mosques to a greater range of the Muslim communities of the UK. The experience of Faith Regen at providing and enhancing the services of Mosques has been developed and proved through the success of the Mosque and Community Engagement Project in Tower Hamlets this year. Taking expertise and materials developed in this service the FRF will expand to cover areas including Newham, Coventry and Manchester.

This project provides a range of services to Mosques to aid the long term progress of the communities they serve. The improvement of Governance structures is of key importance to the success of mosques as community centres, the FRF helps mosques to achieve this by working with them to develop constitutions and appropriate policies and procedures. The FRF also helps mosques and their communities through the development of additional services that will be of value to the community in terms of employability skills, health awareness and more general services.

Capacity Building Project

This Faith Regen project has been funded by our partner organisation the Al Khair Foundation (AKF) to help build the capacity of their staff and volunteers. The aim of this project is to merge AKF's expertise delivering international projects across the globe with the FRF's experience of providing successful projects to the communities of the UK. AKF's aim to begin providing support to the many suitable communities within the UK required the development of understanding of the many factors that charity work rely on. These factors included funding access and information on government funding and other funders of the FRF such as Jobcentre Plus. Following the successful building of AKF staff capacities the FRF and AKF will make joint bids for substantial UK based projects.

Spiritual Centre Leicester (Majlis-e-Dawatul Haq)

Between September 2015 and September 2016 the FRF has been funded by the Al Khair Foundation to establish the Majlis-e-Dawatul Haq as a productive spiritual centre in Leicester. The Majlis-e-Dawatul Haq is a centre set up to promote peace, harmony, understanding and mutual respect within and between faith communities.

The Majlis-e-Dawatul Haq has been developed to provide a number of services to faith communities in Leicester. These services include suitable tuition in the form of face-to-face workshops working in tandem with online courses. Further development of currently available resources by translating them to English and putting them in a digital format for use in online teaching is also planned.

Developed materials and Applications

Community Leadership Management Handbook

This year Faith Regen have been developing their Community Leadership Management Handbook by updating previous courses and materials to accommodate the latest and most useful management skills and techniques. This learning resource has been developed to relate to Islamic knowledge and its appropriate practice. The Handbook offers practical information, exercises and examples on a range of subjects essential to the smooth running of a successful community centre. Using this resource community leaders will be able to successfully and appropriately manage their community towards improved outcomes. This resource can also be used to coach the next generation of community leaders in successful techniques for leadership. The Handbook covers a range of topics such as Strategic Planning, Community Opportunities, Team Building, Conflict Management and Self-management Techniques.

Community Leadership Management Application

Using the above learning resources as a foundation, Faith Regen have developed a more compact format suitable for use as an application on a smartphone or tablet. This digital version of the Community Leadership Management Handbook aims to increase the impact of this course by offering it as a free resource to all community leaders by utilising the latest technological opportunities.

The FRF's New Partners

National Careers Service - This year Faith Regen has partnered with the National Careers Service to increase the effectiveness of our employability resources and training. Faith Regen is working in Tandem with the National Careers Service to provide careers advice and training to communities in need, particularly in North East London.

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