



Annual Report

2016-2017

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CEO'S message:

FRF is committed to empower and regenerate individuals and communities through the vehicle of increased capacity, education, economic independence and a stronger voice. Our organisation aims to build bridges between faith communities and to demonstrate that people of different faiths have common values based on their care and respect for each other.

This annual report documents a year's accomplishments and forward progress toward our vision and mission. FRF has expanded its services from providing training, work placement and employment opportunities to undertaking research projects, creating awareness among BAME and faith communities on issues like domestic violence, integration, cohesion as well as developing different products.

During the last 17 years FRF has developed a successful model for community regeneration based on a deeply rooted faith commitment. Based on this commitment our main objectives for 2016-17 was to:

- Provide services to the victims of domestic violence (DV) and mental health, employability training, work placements, vocational training, ESOL, Creative English, confidence building and intensive mentoring.
- Provide a number of courses and resources that can help both individuals and the communities they live to improve their own lives, as well as the social landscape they live in.

- Maintain and champion strong connections with the local community as it is key to the successful and sustainable regeneration of an area and the lives of the people that live there.

- Provide services to the mainstream commercial, governmental and third sectors, in support of their understanding of the UK's diverse minority faith community and to develop innovative products

- Develop new solutions and innovative interventions to boost the confidence of our beneficiaries and maintain this with counselling, training and personal coaching so that they are able to engage with social, educational and economic activities, helping them move forward with their lives.

- Become a key player in the delivery of low and medium risk domestic abuse services in Tower Hamlets to marginalised and vulnerable groups within society

I am absolutely pleased to present this year's annual report of achievements and accomplishments, counting the success of the Domestic Violence support services that we have embarked in 2015-16 from our centres at Tower Hamlets and Coventry. This is a year we remember for the resilience, loyalty, passion, hard work and commitment from the staff for the sustainment of the organisation.

The activities of the organisation span an enormous range. This report outlines some achievements and progress in selected key projects over the past year. In addition, the report provides an update on the financial results for the 2016-17 financial year.

FRF is an organisation of action and accomplishment with an enthusiastic Board and a team of dedicated staff who create, pursue, perform, and achieve in support of the organisation's mission and vision. As we continue into the 2017-18 financial year, I would like to thank the Board, staff, funders, partners and clients for their ongoing commitment and their dedication to support the values that have made the organisation what it is today.

Thank you very much.

Dr Nujhat Jahan



Projects for the period 2016-17

Raising Aspirations for Women:

Under the Building Better Opportunities (BBO) initiative FRF has secured 2 years contract through Prevista to deliver services for women to gain new skills and qualifications. Big Lottery Fund is matching funds with the European Social Fund for projects across England that tackle poverty and promote social inclusion under ESF Thematic Objective 9 (promoting social inclusion and combating poverty). The main focus of the project is on addressing the root causes of poverty that create barriers to work, so that people who are most socially excluded move towards or into employment. We are delivering this contract from our Croydon Centre. The project went live in November 2016 and within a short space of time the project established a good link with local community and are getting positive responses from the disadvantaged community that we are engaging with.

Domestic Violence: A Concern for All:

FRF provided services for the victims of domestic abuse under this contract funded through Big Lottery's Reaching Out to Communities funding stream. Our services includes

- Counselling
- Employability Training
- English language course
- Vocational training
- Work placement and Job brokerage
- Faith and Community Leaders awareness workshop.

The DVCA project has shown excellent service satisfaction where of the 259 women who provided feedback, 223 women strongly agree to being satisfied, 36 agree. FRF service accessibility has also been rated highly showing that of the 237 women who responded, 205 strongly agree and 32 agree. We have not been able to generate feedback from only 12 clients.

Since Dec 2016 we produced 6 TV shows that explored 'DV & mental health' of which 2 were in English & 4 in Bengali. They received exceptional response where the target community were actively engaging through on-air phone calls & messages to discuss personal cases of DV. We received extraordinary response from our TV shows and this has really put us in the spotlight as the only multi-faith that is really speaking up and publicly about DV and Mental Health in the Muslim community. Twenty two (22) awareness raising workshops were held, 18 of these were with faith and community leaders, 4 were with women from the local community.

We established relationship with the Maryam centre at East London Mosque to continue DV services from there and in Coventry our clients who received food & hygiene certificates are developing their own enterprise & will receive local funds to establish their own kitchen. The Coventry team has strengthened links with CRASAC, who have delivered sexual violence counselling from our location to minimise chances of becoming publicly identified for seeking such support.

Work Programme (CDG)

Since June 2011 FRF is delivering the Work Programme, a new payment-for-results welfare-to-work programme that launched throughout Great Britain in June 2011. The project is funded by DWP through the Prime Contractor - Shaw Trust. This is being delivered from LMC targeting JSA and ESA clients from Hackney and Tower Hamlets. The project has been running effectively meeting the job outcomes targets. The Work Programme stopped taking new participants on 1 April 2017. Those who are already taking part can continue to get the support up to 2 years from the date they joined.

Community Work Placement (CWP):

The CWP programme helped 471 individuals who lack the opportunities to gain necessary work experience, skills and confidence to pursue a career in their chosen field through sourcing suitable placements over a 30 months period that benefits the local community. The project was challenging to begin with but have managed to deliver a structured and effective results. The clients are matched to a work experience placement that benefits their local community. Each placement runs for a period of 12-22 weeks depending on the requirement of the employer.

Faith Action Creative English (FACE):

In 2016-17 we secured funding from Faith Action to deliver Creative English course from 2 hubs- in Tower Hamlets and Newham. Creative English uses a drama-based method to teach English to those with few or no language skills. Using scenarios inspired by real life, Creative English enables learners to understand and practice the language they need in everyday situations while having fun. Over 200 people have taken part in our Creative English sessions, and of those that have completed a course of 10 or more sessions, 100% of them told us that their confidence has improved.



Al-Khair Capacity Building contract:

Faith Regen believes that capacity building is needed to bring a organisation to the next level so that it may more effectively and efficiently advance its mission into the future of operational and programmatic development. The main objectives of the capacity building project was to support the professional development of AKF staff on UK based social development projects. This was done through allowing FRF's experienced staff to pass knowledge to AKF staff on different aspects of UK based social development projects including how to engage with local communities, registration process, conducting initial assessment, introduction to Job centres, securing opportunity number from Job Centre, record keeping etc.

Tower Hamlets Mosque Engagement and services:

This was a one year contract commissioned by Tower Hamlet Council under the Mosque Engagement and Community Services initiative. The main objective was to improve the services that the mosques provide to the public and thus make them more professional and credible in the eyes of the public.

Muslim community perceptions of Homelessness in Tower Hamlets:

FRF was commissioned by Tower Hamlets Council to conduct a research into the causes of homelessness amongst the Muslim community and the perception of local Muslims to the extent of the issue. The purpose of this research is to understand and decipher Muslim perceptions around homelessness and what brings about these perceptions. The project employs the collection of data through second-hand research, data collection in the form of surveys, interviews and focus group discussions to determine how Muslims see homelessness. We conducted surveys with 43 Mosque users from 20 different mosques, held focus groups with Imams, teachers, and other Mosque members. This report analysed and discussed the problem of rough sleeping and 'sofa surfing' amongst the Muslim community within Tower Hamlets and the driving factors for rough sleeping and sofa surfing.

The overall research paints a clearer picture of what Muslim perceptions are regarding homelessness although there has been very little emphasis to explain the 'why' as this remains an objective research project. It is expected that the gaps in this project will pave way for further research into understanding the other dimensions of homelessness among Muslim residents in Tower Hamlets and other London boroughs.

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Muslim community perceptions of **Homelessness in Tower Hamlets**

AKF Faith and Community Leaders Management and Leadership Training:

Faith, Cohesion and Community Development shows that faith leaders and faith groups are at the forefront of dealing with the challenges that their communities face and hence the role of Imams, in imparting a vision of inclusiveness and integration, as well as in motivating and educating their community cannot be overestimated. They take an active role in local community life and work in deprived areas with disadvantaged members of their communities.

This project was funded by Al-Khair Foundation in July 2015 to provide training to the Imams to enable them to lead their communities towards greater personal, social, educational and economic achievement through awareness and participation and integration into the wider society.

Majlise Dawatul Haque Spiritual Centre:

The main aim of the project was to establish Majlis e Dawatul Haq as a Spiritual Centre in the heart of Leicester which will promote peace, harmony, understanding and mutual respect within faith communities. The other objective was to develop a virtual library for Dawatul Haq which will comprise digital collections, valuable lectures and Khutbas.



ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Income and expenditure account 2015/16:

	2015/16	2014/15
	£000	£000
Turnover	812	495
Operating Cost	738	479
Turnover	74	16

Consolidated Balance Sheet as Of 31st March 2016:

	2015/16	2014/15
	£000	£000
Tangible Fixed Assets	954	964
Current Assets	616	100
Current Liabilities	23	100
Net Current Assets	70	16
Total Assets less current liabilities	1024	980

