

Community Forum Meeting

DATE: 15TH NOVEMBER 2016

TIME 09.00



PRESENT: M. RATHORE (BCHS) S. HUSSAIN (BCHS) H. PATEL (BCHS) D. ESTILL (WESTBURY GARDENS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH) A. GIBBONS (PREVENT). A. HUSSAIN (GLOBAL RAHMAH FOUNDATION). S. NORCROSS (ARC PROJECT). A. ABEL (E.LANCS & LIVERPOOL CITY REGION JEWISH COMMUNITY)M. PATEL (AUDLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL)

APOLOGIES: J. CARNE (RESTORATIVE JUSTICE). S. MURPHY (POLICE EARLY ACTION). CLLR. A. HUMPHREYS (BWD).). E. JONES (ARC PROJECT). J. DURHAM (VICTIMS VOICE). J.ROGERS (ST. MATTHEW’S PRIMARY). K. VAUGHAN (INSPIRA) A. Dean

Item	Discussion	Further Action by whom
Welcome and Introductions	<p>M Rathore, Community Lead for BCHS, welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared the minutes of the last meeting.</p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.</p>	
Update on Community Events	<p>D. Estill advised there will be a Christmas Brunch on Saturday 26th November. All the traditional activities including a visit from Father Christmas. Flyer was given to M. Rathore and she will leave it in reception. This event is open to everyone.</p> <p>Annual review from Inter Faith Forum was shared. We are looking for ways of creating closer links with schools and a BCHS student has been invited to attend the annual Holocaust Memorial Day on 24th January. This year we will be focussing on Hate Crime and this is an area we address in school also. There are 12 schools in the borough and 2 of the schools will be asked to design a pledge to be read out on the day. M Rathore accepted immediately on behalf of BCHS. She added that students across the borough are currently working on a Peace Charter for Young People which has been picked up by the Government. D. Estill will organise and allocate the activities and contact M. Rathore when finalised.</p> <p>Mr Estill also passed on thanks from Westbury Gardens as a new clean-up operation is due to start. Last year Joe Burns and the students did a marvellous job and we are looking forward to welcoming them again.</p> <p>A. Hussain from Global Rahmah Foundation explained they are a charity based in Blackburn with branches in Bolton, Manchester and London. We do a lot of relief work abroad, working with refugees. We supply winter packages, blankets, coats, food packages, clothes parcels, mattresses. We also supply medical assistance and medication. We make our money through events. In October we had a funding lark. We are trying to involve High School Students in volunteering. We had several students from Tauheedal and Blackburn College who joined us, and brought along their friends, to the fun day. We have an event coming up in Stanley House on 27th November where we will be holding an afternoon tea for ladies.</p> <p>M. Rathore asked what activities were more local which we could get involved with. A Hussain explained they could do anything they would feel confident with. We supply funds etc. for events. Students can decide where their hard earned</p>	D. Estill

	<p>money goes but it would be an overseas charity which benefits as there is nothing local at the moment. M Rathore explained at the moment we are committed to Maundy Relief but she will ensure our students get involved with a project in the new year.</p> <p>S, Norcross explained the ARC Project have more people than ever accessing their support. There will be traditional Christmas events taking place soon. M Rathore requested details of the events be sent to her so they could be shared in school. She also said she is aware that some of our families in school access the ARC and last year school provided some boxes. She reiterated that the aim of the Community Forum is to assist in whatever way we can and people should not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.</p> <p>A. Abel explained that he and his wife do a lot of inter-faith work at grass roots level. This is not as a representative of any particular agency. We have meeting places in Blackburn, Preston and beyond. Mainly we work with networking and delivering inter-faith in the area.</p> <p>M. Rathore asked if he was part of the Inter-Faith Forum. He replied that he isn't at the moment but would be delighted to join.</p> <p>A. Gibbons shared the Charity Commissions Event on 19th November at Blackburn Library. She thanked the forum for sharing the event which has resulted in lots of people wanting to attend. M. Rathore asked if would be pertinent for her to attend. A. Gibbons will send the invite to enable her to book.</p> <p>M. Rathore shared recent events from BCHS namely the Autumn Bazaar which was a roaring success. We raised nearly £1,000 which will be deposited into our Enrichment Fund which is a fund for families who may not have the funds for extracurricular activities. Any monies raised through school activities are used to enrich the lives of our students and their families.</p> <p>We have an Anne Frank Exhibition in school at the moment which will be open to the public on Wednesday 16th at 2.00pm, when it will be formally opened by the Mayor. M. Patel said that their year 6 would benefit from a visit.</p> <p>Posters were placed on the wall outlining the charity structure and M. Rathore explained the activities which take place in school across the year for local charities. Gaps in the calendar could be filled by charities from the Forum. We recently raised nearly £300 at the quiz night for staff. We have a year 10 students who will be cutting her hair and donating it to little princesses. It is important that we embed the ethos of community and sharing. In a school with 55 Nationalities and 38 languages we are fantastically cohesive with no divisions and we are tolerant of differences. This is in direct contrast to the idea that we are divided as a community. There was a lively discussion on diversity and fears. A. Abel informed the forum that he is looking into a concept for inter-generational activities. This generated lots of suggestion for activities which we could possibly organise.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>D. Estill extended an invitation to school to come and view the Christmas decorations at the church.</p> <p>A. Abel volunteered to come into school and do some activates on Hanukkah.</p> <p>M Rathore thanked everyone for attending.</p>	