



Council and faith communities in partnership
 • improving communication
 • facilitating faith groups support for the wider community

Southend Interfaith Working Group

Wednesday 14 January 2015

14.00-15.30

Southend Christian Fellowship Plaza Centre
 600 Southchurch Road, Southend SS1 2PT

Attendees:

John Barber – Community Activist
 Hannah Bucke – Southend and Leigh
 Methodist Circuit
 Ade Butteriss – Southend-on-Sea Borough
 Council
 Mark Churchward – Love Southend /
 Southend Christian Fellowship
 Geoff Licence – British Humanist Organisation
 Ken Phillips – Southend & District Reform
 Synagogue
 Pritam Singh – Southend Sikh Society
 Grace Taylor – Southend-on-Sea Borough
 Council

Apologies:

Tejinder Bharj – Southend Sikh Society
 Della Carr – Southend & District Reform
 Synagogue
 Nina Chavda – Hindu Association
 Steve Currell – Christian Representative
 Iftikhar Ul Haq – Southend Mosque
 Helen Thornton – Leigh Quakers

Guests:

Aline Clayson – Southend Mind
 Nancy Smith – Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
 Stuart Long – South Essex Homes
 Sue Snoxell – Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Notes:

1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies Ade welcomed the group and introductions of all members were made. Apologies were noted.
2.	Minutes of the last meeting 11/09/14 Minute of the last meeting were agreed.
3.	Private Fostering Sue Snoxell, Senior Fostering Worker at SBC, informed the group about private fostering in Southend which covers any child or young person under 16 living in the care of someone who is not close family. The government definition of close family means a step parent, siblings of the child or brother/sister of the parent. It is classed as a private fostering arrangement if a child is being fostered for 28

	<p>consecutive days or more and this must be reported to the local authority. The local authority then assesses the arrangement within seven days of being aware and regularly monitors the arrangement.</p> <p>Sue took questions and asked the group to contact Ade if they have any concerns or ideas. Her details are as follows: Email: suesnoxell@southend.gov.uk Telephone: 01702 534442</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Housing and Communities Stuart Long, Community Development Manager from South Essex Homes, informed the group about the work that they do for Southend residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage 6000 social housing properties in Southend • Support resident associations as well as vulnerable adults on an individual basis • Encourage estates to form action groups regarding specific issues • Run 'Block Voices' groups where residents in the tower blocks can have their say on issues which feeds into the Southend Tenant Federation • Provide food parcels as part of Essential Living Fund and is a voucher holder for the Southchurch foodbank • Use 'digital hubs' to support residents to do their transactions online • Work with various organisations such as SAVS, Asda, Storehouse, HARP, Whittingham Avenue Church • Provide 25 Sheltered Housing schemes • Food Culture project – interview residents about their food habits, food champions put on events and cooking classes to raise awareness and integrate communities <p>Stuart took questions and asked the group to contact him if they have any concerns or ideas. His details are as follows: Email: stuartlong@seh.southend.gov.uk Telephone: 01702 212693</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>BAME Dementia Aline Clayson from Southend Mind spoke to the group about 'Dementia Friends' – a campaign that wants to make Southend a more dementia friendly community. She said that BAME communities don't often access these types of service, so will be delivering training sessions to these communities to raise awareness of dementia and what services are available for them. Anyone is eligible to take part in these one day sessions and Aline is working with Nancy Smith, Dementia Officer at SBC.</p> <p>For more information, Aline's email address is: aline.clayson@seandcessexmind.org.uk.</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Group Members Update</p> <p><u>Christian ministries serving the town-centre</u></p> <p>Mark gave a brief report about the growing collaboration between Christian ministries serving the town centre. He said that these groups were firstly brought together to network and find out what each of them do so they can work better together and maximise the benefits of serving the town centre. They have agreed to meet once a term to keep the connection going and the first meeting is in March.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>SIWG Action Plan</p> <p><u>Faith and Belief Event – 4 February</u></p> <p>There has been a good amount of interest from faith groups wishing to exhibit at this event at the Civic Centre and Ade has put together a briefing note with details of the event which he will circulate for comments. The group agreed to contact those faiths that have not yet confirmed their attendance and Grace will liaise with the Council’s Facilities Team about the logistics e.g. tables, parking and insurance.</p> <p><u>SIWG website</u></p> <p>Grace informed the group that she is still waiting on some member profiles to be submitted before the new website can go live. She will contact these members individually.</p> <p><u>Subjects for future meetings</u></p> <p>Ade gave a list of the Council’s services to the group and asked which of these would provide suitable topics for exploration with faith communities. The group decided on several topics they would like to discuss at future meetings. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and religious education • Mental health in minority communities • Sexual health • Reintegration of convicted sex offenders • Security and protecting vulnerable people from involvement in extremism. <p>It was felt that the subject of security/extremism would be most relevant for the next meeting and Ade agreed to contact and invite the most appropriate colleagues and partners.</p> <p><u>Increasing membership</u></p> <p>Ade asked the group if they are aware of any other groups that could be represented on SIWG and if they could approach them ready for the next meeting.</p>

8.	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Date and time of next meeting</u> It was agreed that meetings should continue on a quarterly basis. Ade advised that dates for future meetings will be sent out to the group shortly.</p>
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Actions:

		Responsible	Status
1.	Ade to circulate Faith and Belief event briefing note to SIWG.	AB	Completed
2.	Grace to liaise with Facilities about the Faith and Belief event logistics.	GT	Completed
3.	Grace to contact those members whose profiles are still outstanding for the SIWG website. Members to complete and return profile ASAP	GT / ALL	Outstanding
4.	Grace to circulate dates for next meeting.	GT	Completed
5.	Ade to invite appropriate colleagues/contacts to next meeting to talk to the group.	AB	Completed
6.	All to consider ways of widening attendance at the group.	ALL	Ongoing