



Liverpool Faith Network
Minutes of Meeting held on 14th May 2008

St James House
St James Road
Liverpool

Present

Howard Garner	Frontline	HG
Barbara Tickner	Sec. Free Church Council	BT
Ultan Russell	Liverpool Diocese	UR
Neal Goodhand	Liverpool Baha'i Community	NG
Dr Ahmed Hadi	Liverpool Muslim Society	AH
Cressy Godding	Liverpool Community Spirit	CG
Mike Fox	Sacred Heart	MF

In Attendance

Liz White	LCN	LW
Steven Cox	LCN	SC

Apologies

Barry Levene	Jewish Rep Council	BL
Ruth Stock	Toxteth Team Ministry	RS
Shiv Pande	Institute of Vedic Studies	SP
Gail Jordan	LCN	GJ

	Minutes	Actions	By when
1.	(14.05 Meeting began) Welcome and Apologies for Absence HG welcomed everyone to the meeting and NG began with a short prayer. Apologies as above.		
2.	Declaration of Interest HG declared that Liverpool First were involved with the Cultural strategy when he was employed by them.		
3.	Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting A couple of amendments were made. One being the title of the minutes and the other on page 3 under section 7, in the last sentence the word 'interest' was replaced with the word 'involvement'. The minutes of the 02 April 2008 were then accepted as accurate. LW will		

	make the amendments.	LW	
4.	<p>Items for Any Other Business</p> <p>Meeting Dates - LW Faith Research – LW Faiths4Change - CG</p>		
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Health – LW explained that Abdi Ahmed and David Glasson were both not able to attend this meeting. LW to find out if they can attend the next meeting.</p> <p>Storm Break Report – GJ to feedback the comments from the last Steering Group meeting.</p> <p>Police update – LW informed the Steering Group that the contact is currently on holiday. LW will follow up the proposal of a training event when he returns.</p> <p>New Applicants – to be discussed in item 11.</p> <p>Reps – to be discussed in item 10.</p> <p>Prayer Room / Quiet Space – LW feedback that Fran Lovett has still had no response from Liverpool One. Fran is thinking of moving things forward via John Lewis as they have a chaplain service. This may be another way of getting in to the Liverpool One. CG wanted to emphasise that Liverpool Community Spirit is supportive of having a prayer room / quiet space. HG requested that this becomes a standing item on future agendas.</p> <p>Terms of reference – LW feedback that SC is currently collating the comments of all the networks terms of reference. There will then be a new terms of reference which will have specific parts for the individual networks.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>GJ</p> <p>LW</p>	
6.	<p>Action Plan and Big 5 Report</p> <p>The Big 5 report was looked at first. It was looked at page by page and agreed for accuracy. LW said that she would incorporate CG and UR comments that have been emailed to her. LW will add page numbers and make sure there are not abbreviations in the report. Once these amendments are done LW will email around the final report. So that it can then go out to the relevant people. LW will liaise with GJ about getting the report out.</p> <p>The Action plan was then gone through page by page, suggestions and amendments were given. LW will make the amendments and email the action plan to the Steering Group.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>	

	<p>It was agreed that future Steering Group meetings would be held at St James House as it is a good accessible location. Places of worship would be used when appropriate for particular events and not just for the sake of it. UR said he couldn't guarantee use of St James House would always be free but if we book well in advance the accommodation is more likely to be available.</p> <p>There was then a discussion about the future of Merseyside Council of Faiths (MCF) UR said that he wants to organise a meeting between MCF, the Liverpool Faith Network and Liverpool Community Spirit. The purpose of this would be to develop complimentary agendas and to ensure duplication does not happen.</p>	UR	
7.	<p>Liverpool First Community Engagement Strategy This report was noted. The Steering Group said that the key issues relating to voluntary, community and faith sector can be found in their Big 5 report highlights issues that could be included in the Community Engagement Strategy. There were no suggestions for the 'jargon buster', but it was suggested that the mapping exercise/faith activity research should be incorporated in the 2008/09 delivery plan for the Community Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>The Steering Group also asked if a draft of the Engagement Strategy will be passed round for the networks to see. LW to find out.</p>	LW	
8.	<p>LCN Budget report The Steering Group said that they would not hold open meetings for the sake of holding open meetings. They would only hold them when they felt they were appropriate. It was said that this report leads to more questions be asked. CG said that it seems odd to have a report on developing community engagement which is followed by a report on budget cuts. This implies a reduction in community engagement: in effect 'empowerment without resources'.</p> <p>In the report it mentions that small grant funding has been reduced to £200,000. The Steering Group would like to know what the small grant funding is for, what it has been reduced from and how much is being used on staff administering it. LW to investigate.</p> <p>It was suggested that LCVS looks to the wider Partnership and not just rely on the City Council. HG said that the PCT has money which could be used to</p>	LW	

	resource relevant community engagement. The Chamber of Commerce could be approached and the Learning and Skills Council might have EU funds available.		
9.	<p>Draft Cultural Strategy</p> <p>There is no reference to Faith in the Cultural strategy or the significant role which it contributes to the rich cultural heritage of the City and to its current vitality. The Steering Group found this offensive, the comment was made that “it looks like Faith has deliberately been left out”. Other comments related to the authoring of the report by external consultants. Such dynamics require investigation, greater understanding and a clear statement of vision for the future if the cultural strategy is to have any real influence or impact upon the sizeable number of faith communities which both comprise and maintain City life. The cathedrals as buildings have been mentioned. There is no mention of the Princes Road Synagogue that has just been made a grade 1 listed building. Liverpool is home to the first Mosque and there is a strong Catholic & Protestant background in Liverpool and much community relationship building between faith groups, the nature of which is innovative and which contributes well to community relations. Much of the cultural activity and inspiration within the City is faith based and faith inspired: none of this is mentioned. The Faith Network has previously fed comments to Phil Taylor and Kathryn Smith but none of these comments have been reflected in the report. The Steering Group suggested that a complete section be inserted into the strategy called, ‘Faith and Culture’. This should explain the differences and similarities: what faith and culture is and what it is not, and how faith continues to influence the City’s cultural development. The document will also need to state some clear outcomes which aim to address vision so far as faith and culture are concerned. The Steering Group would like to invite the consultants ABL that have written the strategy to attend a Faith Network Steering Group meeting so that they get a better understanding of the issues surrounding faith and its contribution to culture in Liverpool. CG offered to give the consultants a copy of Liverpool Community Spirit’s publication, ‘Faiths in our City’ to give them a better understanding. LW will feed this back to Katie Beales the Arts & Culture Development Officer.</p>	LW	
11.	<p>Applicants</p> <p>There were 3 new requests of people wanting to join the</p>		

	<p>network.</p> <p>St James in the City – which was accepted Signing Hands Sign Choir – were not accepted based on them not being in Liverpool and not having any faith involvement.</p> <p>Elimear Kavanagh – an individual artist. It was agreed that LW would get in contact with her to find out what her connection to faith is.</p> <p>LW fed back about contacting groups where the Steering Group had queried a faith connection.</p> <p>Calm collective – there was no response from them, therefore it was agreed they could not be a member of the faith network.</p> <p>Renaissance Music Group – this group has no faith affiliation, therefore it was agreed they should not be on the network.</p> <p>Ashworth Hospital – is not in Liverpool, therefore could not be members.</p> <p>Princes Trust – they said they didn't think it was relevant for them to be on the faith network.</p> <p>Barnardos Action for Inclusion could be an associate member.</p> <p>Liverpool Community & Enterprise Support Services – their response was Islam. LW to give AH details of this group and AH to look in to what this organisation does.</p> <p>HMP Altcourse – chaplaincy department, was accepted.</p> <p>South Liverpool Housing Group, Conway Residents & Community Association, Armistead Project, Ceylonese Society in Liverpool and Balmoral Court Residents Association were all not accepted as they are not Faith groups in their essence.</p> <p>The current application form for groups to join networks was discussed. The Steering Group want the application form to contain relevant questions as to why the organisations want to be on a particular network. Currently an applicant just ticks what they are interested in. To be members of the Faith network the organisation needs to be involved as a Faith organisation and not just have an interest in Faith. LW will feed this back to SC and see if the application form can be amended.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>LW proposed new meeting dates for the next couple of months. It was agreed the next meeting would be 10 July at 5.30 – 7.30pm and the meeting in August would be cancelled.</p> <p>CG informed everyone that Faiths4Change are looking to hold an Urban Village Green event in Williamson</p>		

	<p>Square on 16 and 17 August. For more information contact Helen Dawson at Faiths4Change.</p> <p>LW gave an update on the latest developments on the Faith research / mapping exercise. LW will continue to do this at future meetings.</p>		
10.	<p>Representation Report</p> <p>SC presented this report. The Steering Group commented that the pilot would need to last 2 /3 years to ensure that it is really working and that feedback with how it is going be regularly reported. The steering group suggested that reps are found through connections and knowledge that people have with other members of the network.</p>		
	<p>Date and Time of next meeting 10th July 5.30pm to 7.30pm at St James House, beside the Cathedral</p>		

Meeting Closed at15.50.....

Minutes Compiled by.....LW.....