

Minutes: Faith Forum, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009

*Attended:*

Baha'is of Godalming	Mr Bibhas Neogi
Buddhist Chaplain, University of Surrey, Farnham, Jubilee Church,	Prof Geoff Hunt Rev Sean Gubb
Farnham United Reform Church	Rev Michael Hopkins
Godalming, Christian Science Church, Godalming Unitarian Church	Mr Bernard Jones, Sheena Gabriel
Guildford Diocese	Canon David Tonkinson
Humanists, Farnham	Mr Alec Leggatt
Islamabad Community	Dr Ahmad Hameed
Surrey Police	Rev Jan Moore, Chaplain and Faith Co-ordinator
Waverley Strategic Partnership,	Nasir Virji,
Waverley Borough Council:	Louise Norie, Corporate Policy Officer Wendy Gane, HR Adviser

*Presentations:* Elizabeth Donaldson, Housing Options Manager,  
Waverley Borough Council  
Sergeant Andy Crane, Surrey Police

*Guest:* Patrick McCord, Partnerships Officer, Mole Valley

*Apologies:*

Cranleigh Deanery	Rev David Minns
Farnham Deanery	Rev Jonathan Still,
Godalming, St Peter and St Paul Church,	Rev Patrick O'Ferrall
Godalming Unitarian Chapel	Adrienne Wilson, Nick Morrice,
Waverley Borough Council	Mary Orton, Chief Executive

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Louise Norie opened the meeting.

## **2. Co-Chair**

It was suggested and agreed that the Chair and Co Chair would chair alternate meetings. Nasir Virji will Chair the next meeting and will contact everyone in the meantime to collect items for the agenda the next and future meetings.

**NB:** The next meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Waverley's offices in Godalming from the new time of 10.30 – 12.30 followed by a light lunch on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

## **3. Housing Options**

Elizabeth Donaldson, Housing Options Manager (Advice) showed a short video about the Housing Options Service which finds housing solutions for people under threat of homelessness.

The link to the housing options web page is below:

[http://www.waverley.gov.uk/site/scripts/home\\_info.php?homepageID=22](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/site/scripts/home_info.php?homepageID=22)

Geoff Hunt asked how we would know if discrimination was occurring in this service.

This service is provided on the understanding that the person is able to sustain a tenancy, irrespective of their religion or belief. Waverley is not aware that anyone has experienced discrimination in this service area on the grounds of religion or belief.

If someone receiving the service needed to complain about discrimination, they would be encouraged to use the Complaints Procedure (copy attached).

If we were to find that someone had experienced barriers and discrimination within the service, Waverley would address those issues and is passionate about ensuring that all who live and work in the borough have equal life chances.

#### **4. Financial Inclusion Policy**

Louise Norie explained that Waverley was drafting a Financial Inclusion approach and would welcome feedback on it. The draft policy is attached via the link below.

Waverley's Financial Inclusion approach is an essential component of Waverley's Social Inclusion Strategy, which was adopted in July 2008.

[http://www.waverley.gov.uk/downloads/020\\_Appendix\\_J\\_Annexe\\_2.pdf](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/downloads/020_Appendix_J_Annexe_2.pdf)

#### **5. Surrey Police : Diversity Directorate**

Sergeant Andy Crane, Community Contact, Diversity Directorate, Surrey Police gave an outline on the Diversity Directorate and 'How we can be mutually beneficial' .

The Diversity Directorate was set up to help Surrey Police to ensure that diversity and equality is a central and vital part of their policies, procedures and decision making process. There are two strands to the Diversity Directorate: Internal and External.

The link to the Diversity Directorate web page is below:

<http://www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&q=surrey+police+diversity+directorate&meta=&aq=f&oq>

The Diversity Directorate, together with Waverley, are looking to provide equitable, accessible services and is keen to use the Faith Forum as a critical friend, via Jan Moore.

#### **6. Networking Opportunities**

A number of the Faith Forum participants have asked to talk about various projects at the Forum (such as Water for Life). Therefore, Wendy Gane asked

the question: How can the Faith Forum maximise our networking opportunities whilst remaining focused on the main purpose of the Forum?

It was agreed that the Faith forum participants would e mail each other on these issues rather than use the Faith Forum time for items which were not related to the Faith Forum terms of reference.

The next meeting of the Faith Forum will be on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. followed by a light lunch, to be held in the Council Chamber, Waverley Borough Council Offices, The Burys, Godalming GU7 1HR.

**Waverley Borough Council is committed to improving equality and eliminating any discrimination in both service delivery and employment. Thank you for your continued participation in the Waverley Faith forum.**