

Minutes: Faith Forum, 23rd March 2010

Attended:

Baha'is of Godalming	Mr Bibhas Neogi
Buddhist Chaplain, University of Surrey,	Prof Geoff Hunt
Cranleigh Deanery	Rev David Minns
Farnham, Jubilee Church,	Rev Sean Gubb
Farnham Deanery	Rev Jonathan Still,
Farnham, St Joan of Arc Catholic Church	Father Paul Jennings
Godalming Deanery	Rev John Fellows
Godalming, Christian Science Church,	Mr Bernard Jones,
Godalming Unitarian Church	Nick Morrice
Humanists, Farnham	Mr Alec Leggatt
Surrey Faith Links Adviser,	Haallah Shams
Surrey Police Faith Co-ordinator/Chaplain	Rev Jan Moore
Waverley Strategic Partnership,	Nasir Virji
Waverley Borough Council:	Mary Orton, Chief Executive
	Louise Norie, Corporate Policy Officer
	Wendy Gane, HR Adviser

Apologies:

Farnham United Reform Church	Rev Michael Hopkins
Godalming, St Peter and St Paul Church,	Rev Patrick O'Ferrall
Godalming Unitarian Chapel	Sheena Gabriel, Adrienne Wilson
Guildford Diocese	Canon David Tonkinson
Islamabad Community	Dr Sardir Hamid Ahmad

Nasir Virji opened the meeting and suggested a moment of contemplation at the beginning and end of each meeting. This was agreed.

1. Introductions

Haallah Shams, Surrey Links Faith Adviser and Father Paul Jennings, St Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Farnham were both welcomed as new participants of the Faith Forum.

2. Review Name of the Faith Forum and revisit the Terms of Reference

Following discussion, it was decided to leave the name as it is, as this was the majority view.

The terms of reference were updated to consistently use the words faith, religious and belief communities.

Alec Leggatt asked if the community was aware of the Faith Forum and suggested putting a paragraph about the Faith Forum in 'Making Waves' which is Waverley's magazine circulated to households and business in the

borough 4 times a year. It was agreed that Waverley and each of the faith, religious and belief communities would publicise the Faith Forum.

Mary Orton encouraged the Faith Forum to make demands of Waverley on behalf of their faith, religious and belief communities.

Alex Leggatt said that the local paper was a good source of information about people's views on Waverley as they publish letters of complaint. Waverley.

Mary Orton responded that Waverley often knows the individuals who write to the local paper. There is also space in formal committee meetings for the general public to attend and contribute either on a formal or informal basis. Mary emphasised that Waverley wants to publicise that it is approachable.

3. Waverley Communities Health and Social Inclusion Group.

Nasir Virji and Louise Norie gave the feedback from the last meeting of the Communities Health and Social Inclusion Group.

- i) Alcohol consumption and associated problems were discussed at the Health and Social Inclusion Group with the following being identified.
 - a. Drinking at home is increasing
 - b. There is a reduction in alcohol related crime.
 - c. At secondary schools: drugs and substance abuse is covered and it is acknowledged more schools need to raise awareness of alcohol associated problems.
- ii) An update was given on the National Dementia Strategy.

The Government launched this strategy in February 2008 and it was backed with £150 million for the first 2 years. It sets out 17 recommendations that are hoped will transform dementia care services over the next 5 years ranging from more memory clinics, dementia advisors to support those with dementia and their carers, early diagnosis and a major public awareness campaign.

In Surrey there are 14,000 people with dementia and we could be looking at a 31% increase across the county in the next ten years. Only a third of people with dementia get a formal diagnosis which is the key to accessing services. The approach to implementing a Surrey wide strategy is to work with NHS Surrey to commission a service that is based on population need and has a community focus.

Attached to these minutes is a note with further information on Dementia, including useful contacts.

- iii) Action plan of Social Inclusion Group
 - i. Promote involvement of voluntary sector
 - ii. Promote rural areas
 - iii. Promote smoking cessation
 - iv. Promote sexual education in the young

v. Promote alcohol awareness

Jan Moore commented that the above problems may not exist in our faith, religious and belief communities but we need to think beyond that and take social responsibility for these issues.

Mary Orton said that the PCT are worried about alcohol in Surrey as a whole and it is not just teenagers on the street. There are hidden social implications. There is an increase in domestic violence. Alcohol has been identified as a 'middle class' problem.

Jan Moore said that she was amazed to hear that alcohol related crime is reducing as domestic violence is increasing.

Mary Orton indicated that it is a struggle to deal with domestic violence. Communities are more concerned about what is on the street.

Bibhas Neogi asked what Waverley can do about raising awareness of problems associated with alcohol.

Mary Orton said that Waverley doesn't run schools and it is not Waverley's role to take responsibility for education on health and can not solve this problem on its own. However, Waverley can:

- Do spot checks on licensed premises
- Work closely with the Police
- Through leisure centres and voluntary contacts, promote alternative activities
- Offer domestic violence outreach
- Tackle anti social behaviour

Alex Leggatt asked how the Faith Forum can help.

Louise Norie said that raising awareness in our faith, religious and belief community of the increased risk in drinking alcohol.

4. Equality Framework for Local Government: Award Update

Waverley has been awarded the 'Achieving Level' in the Equality Framework by the Improvement and Development Agency for local government and the report from the IDEA will be fed back to the Faith Forum.

Louise Norie asked the Faith Forum to let her know if there are any of Waverley's service areas which they would like to look at/know more about.

David Minns acknowledged that it would be helpful to have clarity on what services Waverley provides.

Louise Norie also said that Waverley wished to bring Equality Impact Assessments to the Faith Forum for consultation and said that the future process for doing this would be a future agenda item.

It was also agreed that Iain Lynch, Head of Economic Development and Partnerships will be invited to give a presentation on his service area.

5. Consultation: Recruitment and Selection

Wendy Gane asked for comments on Waverley's application form and equal opportunities monitoring form. There were no comments on the application form. It was agreed that the equal opportunities monitoring form needed to be in line with the categories used for the census.

Update: It is now emerging that there are likely to be a number of changes to the categories used in the census so this topic will be raised as a future agenda item.

The next meetings of the Faith Forum will be on 15th June and 29th September 2010 (please note revised September date) 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.

About Dementia

The term 'dementia' is used to describe the symptoms that occur when the brain is affected by specific diseases and conditions.

Dementia describes different brain disorders that trigger a loss of brain function. These conditions are all usually progressive and eventually severe. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, affecting 62 per cent of those diagnosed, almost 417,000 people nationally.

Other types of dementia include; vascular dementia affecting 17 per cent of those diagnosed, mixed dementia affecting 10 per cent of those diagnosed. There is no cure for dementia. Dementia is progressive, which means the symptoms will gradually get worse. How fast dementia progresses will depend on the individual. Each person is unique and will experience dementia in their own way.

Symptoms of dementia include:

- Loss of memory – for example, forgetting the way home from the shops, or being unable to remember names and places, or what happened earlier the same day.

- Mood changes – particularly as parts of the brain that control emotion are affected by disease. People with dementia may also feel sad, frightened or angry about what is happening to them.
- Communication problems – a decline in the ability to talk, read and write.
- In the later stages of dementia, the person affected will have problems carrying out everyday tasks, and will become increasingly dependent on other people.

What causes Dementia?

There are several diseases and conditions that cause dementia. These include:

Alzheimer's disease – The most common cause of dementia. During the course of the disease the chemistry and structure of the brain changes, leading to the death of brain cells

Vascular disease – The brain relies on a network of vessels to bring it oxygen-bearing blood. If the oxygen supply to the brain fails, brain cells are likely to die and this can cause the symptoms of vascular dementia. These symptoms can occur either suddenly, following a stroke, or over time through a series of small strokes

Dementia with Lewy bodies – This form of dementia gets its name from tiny spherical structures that develop inside nerve cells. Their presence in the brain leads to the degeneration of brain tissue. Memory, concentration and language skills are affected. This form of dementia shares some characteristics with Parkinson's disease).

Fronto-temporal dementia (including Pick's disease) – In fronto-temporal dementia, damage is usually focused in the front part of the brain. At first, personality and behaviour are more affected than memory

The extent and way in which communication is affected will depend on which part of the brain has been affected by disease. For example, language is usually a function of the left side of the brain, the dominant parietal lobe of the brain is concerned with reading and writing.

General tips:

- Patience - 90% communication is non verbal. The problem is that the brain of a person with dementia misinterprets information, so you and the person may be at cross purposes which is frustrating. The person with dementia may have visual, audio, spatial, articulation, problems.
- Show respect.
- Give full attention
- Use non verbal cues
- Have patience- don't interrupt- it completely throws them, they feel embarrassed and upset.
- Let them express the views they want to. It is OK for them to be upset and angry. They may have misinterpreted information, but their feelings are valid

- Minimise other noises eg in a meeting make sure only one person speaks at once.
- Don't loom over them or get too close- it is intimidating
- Speak slowly and calmly. People with dementia pick up on moods and if you are agitated, they will be too.
- When asking questions, don't make them complicated it may make them flustered and upset. Use pictures if necessary
- Remember people with dementia also need glasses, hearing aids etc. Not all communication problems are due to dementia.
- A sudden deterioration in ability to communicate should be a cause for concern - Straight back to doctor- may be uti, stroke, dehydration, etc
- All these basic rules also apply to producing written materials

Communicating with people with dementia

Challenge assumptions that people with dementia should be communicated with via their carers. Carers are important but there is danger that we get the views of the carer not the person with dementia.

People with dementia are human beings, they have feelings, views and a right to be heard. Yes, dementia is progressive and that individual may at some point have very challenging needs, but at all stages we must remember their humanity. If we have some understanding of their condition we should be able to communicate at some level.

For more information:

Waverley Alzheimer's Society – Marjorie Gray Hall, Grayswood Rd,
Haslemere
☎ 01483 642005

Waverley Community Mental Health Team – Farnham Rd Hospital Guildford
☎ 01483 443547

Dementia Awareness Week – 4th July 2010

<http://alzheimers.org.uk/>

Regular carers' support groups

Cranleigh, Rowland House, Every Monday, 10 am – 3 pm
(for people with dementia and their carers)
Farnham, Cobgates Residential Care Home **Every Monday: 10am – 3pm**
(For

people with dementia and their carers)

Haslemere, Marjorie Gray Hall 2nd Wednesday each month
7:30pm (Carers only)
Godalming, Salvation Army Hall, Mint Street 3rd Monday each month
10am-12pm ,