

**Bolton Council of Mosques**  
**Working together to build a better future**



**'Engaging Young People - Engaging The Future'**

**The Bolton Council of Mosques have over the last five years been engaged in a progressive programme of increasing opportunities for young people, particularly from the Muslim Community to engage, enjoy and achieve. Through partnership development and capacity building, the last year has seen a significant increase in the actual delivery of projects and in participation and engagement with young people, women and girls and the wider community as a whole.**

**Listed within this brief report are just some of the projects and outcomes that the Bolton Council of Mosques have delivered and are working on.**

## **1. Outreach Project**

We have identified 4 key workers and volunteers, covering the areas of Great Lever, Chorley Old/New Road (Queens Park), Halliwell and Blackburn Road. The Outreach work looks at engaging with young people on the streets, identifying need and directing young people into positive activities.

We have recently identified 2 more volunteers for Moses Gate and Farnworth which are areas currently being looked at in partnership with Sport Health and Inclusion Services.

## **2. Saturday Evening Youth B.L.G.C Project**

Approx 30 young people are being supported to access the Bolton Lads and Girls Club provision on a Saturday evening via the provision of transportation and through group work and outreach. 4 young adults are regularly engaged in volunteering at the Saturday evening session.

## **3. Sunday Morning Get Active Project**

A Sunday morning session has just been established – targeting under 13's - males. The 1<sup>st</sup> week uptake has been approximately 25 participants. The session has been marketed door to door and will continue to run through out the year. The session will be monitored and one of the ways of increasing the attendance will be to put a bus shuttle into the communities and have a pick up and drop off service.

## **4. Queens Park - PAYP Summer project**

BCoM is supporting 'Young Starz', a local community group from around the Chorley Old/New Road area and have developed a 6 week intensive water sports and youth club summer programme, partly funded by PAYP funding. Young people on the programme have been identified through the community key workers.

These young people have been identified as the ones that have been congregating around the Queens Park area and have been involved in the Graffiti and Anti-social behaviour in and around the park. A place to meet and something to do was identified by young people, which resulted in the Victory Community Centre being opened 2 times a week over the summer.

## **5. Hayward Summer 'Kick it' Programme**

BCoM has been supporting volunteers to engage with young Pakistani Males from the Great Lever Community at Hayward Community Leisure Centre. A joint project with Bolton Wanderers football in the Community has taken place. Approximately 30 young males have participated in a soccer skills session every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.

## **6. The Valley – Tuesday Evening Football Competition**

A 6 week under 16's football competition on a Tuesday evening is currently being run at the Hibbert Street Astro-Turf in the Crompton Ward area. A lack of Youth Facilities and support has resulted in BCoM supporting 4 young adults in the area to put the competition together.

### **7. Inter-Mosque Football Competition**

The Inter-Mosque football competition saw 500 young people attending the Bolton Arena on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The Presentation for this football competition took place at the University of Bolton on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007 where the Mayor presented the Trophies to the Winners and Runner-up.

### **8. Inter-Faith Football Competition**

The winners and Runners up have also been given the opportunity to take part in an Inter-Faith Football Competition on the **2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007**

### **9. Unity in Diversity – Football in the Community**

BCoM has also made a financial contribution to the Community Cohesion Football Development post at Bolton Wanderers Football in the Community. This has resulted in BCoM working very closely with the Football Club and has developed a strategy to engage with the BME communities. A number of initiatives engaging young people into football have begun and are ongoing, led by the appointed worker but supported by BCoM as well as other organisations.

### **10. UMRAH – Educational Trip**

4 young people are currently being supported to take a trip to the Holy Cities of Mecca and Madina in Saudi Arabia. The young people have been attending educational classes, learning about the rituals and planning the journey that they are about to take. The trip will be taking place on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2007 for two weeks.

### **11. Crompton Cash Panel**

A project that worked with 4 young people in the Crompton Ward and developed a DVD supporting a funding bid. The application was not successful however it gave the young people confidence and knowledge around establishing contacts. We are still continuing the support with the young people who are working towards promoting and establishing a youth base for activities in the area

### **12. Bolton Islamic College – Indoor Youth Recreation Facilities**

Bolton Darul Uloom – Established an indoor youth recreation facility which will cater for over 300 young people both boarding students and non-residents.

### **13. Inter-faith Sports Festival**

The event took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2007 and was run in partnership with Bolton Lads and Girls Club, attracting the different faiths and communities in Bolton. The Sports festival attracted over 200 Females to take part with many young people meeting new people and trying out new activities. Due to the success of the event and feedback from young people, BCOM are organising 3 more sports events to take place later in the year.

Also identified was the need to look at providing some coaching sessions for members before an event like this, and also to look at team sports kits as many of the young women did not have sports clothing such as trainers, tracksuits etc. This is probably because for many of these BME community girls it was probably the first time they took part in such activities. The Inter-Faith Sports festival has allowed the engagement of a huge number of young females and compliments the work undertaken at the Just for Girls sessions on Sunday afternoons.

### **14. Just 4 Girls Sunday**

The Just 4 Girls project takes place every Sunday afternoons in partnership with Bolton Lads and Girls Club. The session attracts an average of 80 Females – Mothers and Daughters attending and taking part in various activities each week. Working with local volunteers, BCoM and BLGC staff we have been able to ensure that all staff are female.

### **15. Young ambassadors Inter-faith Forum**

The group meets up weekly at the BCOM office and is supported by BCoM as well as Hindu Forum and Interfaith Staff. The group undertook an active role in the spirit of Bolton Festival and are now planning future events and activities.

### **16. Youth Application Fund – Rumworth area girls project/ pikes lane Saturday club.**

BCoM supported a group of young females through the Pikes Lane Community Club to apply for funding through the cash panel. The young people involved completed the application which was successful in securing the funding which the young people will manage and spend. The process has encouraged the young people to become decision makers and experience the process around interviews, report writing etc.

### **17. Youth Application Fund – Supporting Just4Girls Members**

BCoM also supported another group of young females to submit an application to the Cash Panel; unfortunately this was not successful however the young people learnt many skills by being involved in this process.

### **18. Mums and Daughters Summer Trips**

BCoM have piloted a Mother and Daughter Summer programme of activities to – The Blue Planet, Urbis Museum Manchester, Alton Towers, and Ice-skating. The aim of the trips have

been to engage more with Mothers and Daughters from the BME communities, increase confidence and ultimately empower Females to make decisions and try out new activities.

### **19. Great Lever NEET support work**

The BCoM Female Youth Worker is working closely with a small group of Pakistani young women from Great Lever, who have requested support in accessing and applying for work. Some sensitive family issues have been highlighted to the worker who is now looking at providing some one to one support to the members as well as group support. In the long run we are hoping to establish a girls group in the area and are building on Volunteer interest and partnership work to ensure that the group can be sustained long term.

### **20. ICOCO Focus groups**

2 groups of young Female adults took part in discussions around Community Cohesion and shared their experience, concerns and thoughts on this matter. The discussions and comments will be part of a wider piece of work that Bolton Council has commissioned the Institute of Community Cohesion to undertake

### **21. Pikes Lane Saturday morning Community Club support work**

BCoM supports the Pikes Lane Community Club around activities for young boys and girls. Engaging in sports, arts and various other youth work initiatives. The BCoM female youth worker has also supported a varied programme of activities for the summer holidays.

### **22. Jobs and Careers Convention**

BCoM promoted and held an outreach project culminating in a Jobs and Careers Convention on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007 that promoted further education, apprenticeships and employment, with stands from Bolton University, Bolton College, Connexions Bolton, GMPA and other employers in Bolton and the North West. The Mayor attended as did 100 young adults, with 22 exhibitors. We also had 6 Volunteers. 10 people who attended have made formal applications already, with others still in the process.

### **23. Hayward School Cash Panel**

BCoM supported a Cash Panel application with young people, to provide activities for young people over the lunch period at Hayward School. We managed to secure £17000 for two projects and are continuing our support with the school and young people around the delivery.

## **24. Mentoring and Counselling**

We currently have 4 qualified counsellors, 2 of whom have started providing counselling for young people with serious and sensitive requirements. 6 people are currently receiving professional counselling. Counselling is taking place from the Bolton Council of Mosque offices and other venues that the client feels comfortable with.

The trained Mentors have now started offering mentoring support and guidance supported by our mentoring and counselling co-ordinator. 5 young people are receiving mentoring. We are continuously seeking additional Mentors and will be providing training to these volunteers. The service is being promoted widely through partners and through a role out in Schools and Colleges.

## **25. Partnerships and Collaborations**

We have worked in partnership with the Interfaith Council, the Hindu forum and the church leader's forum and Zakariyya Mosque in relation to the Spirit of Bolton Event and the interfaith Trail.

## **26. Krypton Factor – Team Building Session**

We have worked with the British Army to engage people into physical activity and held a Krypton Factor Team building challenge. 100 young people from the Indian and Pakistani and Somali community took part and completed the Army Personal Development Course. The day also had a workshop that looked at the role of the army with Questions and answer sessions taking place which created a lot of debate around the current Army peace keeping involvement and resolved and challenged a lot of perceptions.

## **26. Segregated Swimming Sessions**

Supported the introduction with Serco Leisure for Segregated swimming programme over the summer for young people in 2 community Leisure Centres.

## **27. Ghosia Youth Voice**

Ghosiya Youth Voice – Supported the group to establish a Cricket training centre at their venue through advice, funding support, advocacy etc.

## **28. Summer Play and Sports**

### **“Don't Get Bored – Get Active This Summer” Campaign**

Summer Play and Sports activities programme organised in partnership with Bolton Young Peoples Services and the Sport Health and Inclusion Team.

We have developed a good working relationship with Play and Children's Services Staff and Sport Health and Inclusion Staff to direct resources and provision to target BME communities. The relationship has encouraged the use of two local Mosque community facilities, one in the Rumworth area (Ghosia Hall) and the other in the Crompton Ward (Astley Community Centre) to be available for use.

## **29. Canon Street Youth Provision**

Currently at the initial stages of developing the Cannon Street Youth Centre. The centre will support and run various young peoples activities, ensuring that there is joint working between the local communities as well as voluntary and statutory services in the area.

## **30. Criminal Activity**

We are currently involved in the UCLAN Drugs research commissioned through the DAT. Focus groups and interviews have been organised with Doctors, Young people, Community champions to understand the extent of the Drug taking and dealing problem in the South Asian Community in Bolton

We are working with voluntary organisations to build and support their capacity to tackle antisocial behaviour – Currently working with the Pikes Lane Community Club, Belief, Ghosiya Youth Voice, All Souls Crompton Community Centre as well as a group called Young Stars

Representation is also made on the Police Independent Advisory Group (IAG) by the Children and Young Peoples Project Manager and the BCoM Development Manager.

## **31. Education**

BCoM has been working with the Director of Children's Services and have been reviewing the terms and conditions of an Education Workers post with a view to advertising in the very near future. The post will look at the under achievement of Pakistani Males in Education and develop a strategy to tackle this issue for the future

BCoM Organised a Governor training programme focusing on the improvement of attainment of BME young people. **45 Governors** and representatives of the local community interested in Education attended. It was a very successful event.

We are supporting and contributing to the partnerships established through the extended services process, ensuring that partnership working around delivering the key outcomes are achieved.

## **32. Winter Residentials**

3 weekend Residentials were undertaken in November 07 at the Waterpark Adventure Centre in Coniston. 82 young people took part with 14 volunteers taking part in assisting. The Residentials aims were

- To give the young people an opportunity to experience outdoor and watersports activities.
- To take the young people through some daily disciplines that they may encounter when they are part of the higher education or world of work. This involved making their own sandwiches for lunch, setting out the tables and washing the dishes after meals, making their beds, time keeping etc.
- To deliver workshops around Role models, Drug problems in Bolton, and Gangs.
- Leadership and volunteering

All the Young people who took part on the residential have been submitted for AQA awards and will be presented to them with a Photo DVD as soon as the accreditations arrive.

### **33. Work in Moses Gate**

A group of volunteers from the Moses gate area have been supported to form a community group under the name of “Moses Gate Community Action Team”. Support has been given to develop a constitution, Child Protection Policy and volunteers have been put through the CRB process aswell.

The volunteers have also been supported to kick start a youth drop in at Little Lever Community Leisure Centre on a Saturday and Sunday. Sports activities have been taking place and an average of 25 young people have been attending over the 4 sessions.

An older group is also being supported by our outreach workers on a Thursday evening. This group has been using various facilities to take part in Positive activities.

A Football Team which was in need of support has been supported with equipment to continue there training at Leverhulme Park. The Group travels with volunteers to Leverhulme from Moses Gate and takes 12 young people in the area to train and engage.

### **34. Great Lever support & Hayward Youth Drop-in**

Volunteers have been supported to take a group of young people to Hayward Community Leisure Centre to take part in positive activities on a Saturday morning. 30 young people participated in the first weeks, but with the unpredictable weather and distance travelled, the numbers have reduced. The Volunteers are continuing to promote the opportunity and are confident that the numbers will increase. This Great Lever group has been very active, working with the Pakistani young people in the area. We are now looking to see if the group can be made more structured and develop them as a voluntary organisation similar to the Moses Gate Setup.

### **35. Bobby Heywood – Work**

Discussions have taken place with various agencies from the Police, Youth, Sport, and Play services around supporting activities within this area. BCoM has agreed to support with an outreach worker and will also provide some inter-active equipment to kick start some positive activities within the centre.

### **36. GMPA – You Choose – Terrorism Workshop**

More than 450 young people got the chance to let the police know there views as they attended the Greater Manchester Police Authority “You Choose” sessions staged at the Manchester United Football Club – Old Trafford and Bolton Arena.

The Bolton Council of Mosques Facilitated a workshop in conjunction with the counter terrorism unit. This raised awareness of Terrorism and how it can affect all of us, anywhere, at anytime. The Young people got to use the “Ask the Audience” handsets and gave their honest opinions – Including one young mans belief that his Mum was a Terrorist to him.

Other workshops covered issues relating to guns and gangs and policing priorities all in a fun and inter-active way. The day was designed to fit into the crime and community aspect of citizenship agenda of the GMPA, whilst giving young people the opportunity to think about their own communities and how it is policed.

### **37. Islam Awareness Week**

Bolton Council of Mosques took part and organised many activities as part of an Islam Awareness week which is a National campaign to raise awareness of the religion of Islam and to raise awareness and remove misconceptions surrounding Britain's second largest faith group.

Sadly, Islam and Muslims are often portrayed as unreasonable, fanatical, intolerant, violators of human rights and anti-women. These popular images come down from age old myths and fears, often fuelled by political and economic interests and sometimes reinforced by the publicity given to extremists on the margins of Muslim society. They have led to prejudices and negative feelings about Islam and Muslims.

These misunderstandings breed suspicion, discrimination, racism and even violence. We believe that these misconceptions must be removed if we are to see the development of a truly multi-faith.

As part of the week we aimed to reach out and get young people from all Faiths involved in a Quiz. The Quiz was designed to educate young people on the Basic Beliefs of a Muslim and for the young person to go out and research about the facts. Through the engagement of young people through the schools, it has also helped us to promote the work that BCoM does and has led to schools requesting our services for Mosque visits, consultation etc.

Over 3500 young people were engaged through this process with two young and two schools becoming the lucky winners of a Mountain bike and a Computer.

### **38. Bangladesh Appeal - Football Competition**

A football Competition run by the Sport Health and Inclusion Services was supported by the Bolton Council of Mosques which was held at the Bolton University sports centre. 10 Teams – 60 young people - under 16's years of age participated. Teams from Newbury, Westhoughton, Rumworth, 3D's and Great Lever participated with a fantastic show of diversity and cohesion to raise money for a needy cause.

### **39. Every Child Matters In Madrassah - Madrassah Poster Project**

Through the support of local volunteers who have an active engagement in our Madrassah's, we have set up a Madrassah Poster Project. The Aim of this project is to engage with young people from the Muslim Community through the Madrassah's they attend.

We are currently developing posters with the following topics, and have engaged young people to give us some feedback on the design and contents.

Topics we aim to cover are as follows: -

The Etiquettes of the Classroom

The Etiquettes of eating and drinking

The Etiquettes of engagement with parents, teachers and Elders,

Drugs and Alcohol

Smoking

Health

etc.....

Once the set of posters are complete, they will be distributed throughout the 16 Mosques which will be displayed in classrooms and will also be a tool for teachers to use as part of the curriculum.

#### **40. Every Child Matters in Madrassah – Child Protection Training**

As part of the ongoing training to Teachers within Madrassah's, we are working very closely with Bolton Council's Child Protection Unit and have developed a “Keeping Children Safe” Training Package. This will be delivered to Male 20 Trainers early February and 20 Female Trainers in March. The Aim of the training is to arm the 20 volunteers with this training and they will then respectively deliver back into their own communities. The training will help to safeguard Children and Young people in the Care of the Madrassah's and cover topics such as abuse, CRB checks, Fire Safety etc...

#### **41. Every Child Matters in Madrassah – “ Keeping Children Safe” Guidance and policies.**

To ensure that the 4000 approx children and young people that attend the Madrassahs in the evening are safe, we are producing a booklet that will cover topics such as – First Aid, Normal operating procedures, Emergency action Plans, Common Assessment Framework, recognising signs and symptoms, Recruitment and Training, Fire Safety etc

#### **42. Ghosia Partnership**

Ghosia Community Facility sits within the heart of the Rumworth Community. Through the ongoing partnership working we have introduced the facility to the Play and Children Services who have delivered various holiday programmes. The Play and Children Services staff have expressed a keen interest in supporting activities at the community facility and are planning for the future.

Additionally, with support the Ghosia Youth voice have established a girls only and Boys only group who operate 2 days a week. Each session currently attracts approximately 25 young people.

#### **43. All Female Young People Presentation Evening**

A Presentation Awards Evening organised by The Bolton Council of Mosques was very successful with over 120 young people participating. The all-female event was hosted by The Bolton Council of Mosques in recognition of the hard work that young girls have been

undertaking with The Bolton Council of Mosques on a number of projects and activities over the past several months.

Young people from various communities were presented with a number of accredited awards that they attained through working on the different projects. A number of distinguished guests were also present at the event with The Mayor, Cllr Barbara Ronson, presenting the awards. Awards that were attained encompassed a wide range of activities including First Aid, Swimming, Football coaching, Krypton Factor Challenge, and The Making a Difference Workshop.

A total of 14 different certificates were awarded to the young people and volunteers. This entailed a number of AQA and Youth Achievement awards (equivalent to The Duke of Edinburgh Award).

Currently in pursuit of being the first Boltonian to complete the Platinum Youth Achievement Award, Khadija Patel also delivered a presentation giving an insight into her experiences that she underwent in completing The Platinum Award.

#### **44. Young Community Volunteer is a Hit at the Reebok**

Khadija Patel, a volunteer at the Bolton Council of Mosques, was delighted to have been presented a very special award at Bolton's Vision Conference at the prestigious Reebok Stadium. She is the first and only young person in Bolton to have completed and been successful in gaining the Platinum Youth Achievement Award.

The Award is equivalent to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and involves a series of challenges which the young person has to develop, organize and lead.

#### **45. Unity and Diversity – Bolton Wanderers F.C Partnership**

Bolton Council of Mosques plays an active part in the BWFC Unity and Diversity Community cohesion strategy. In December BCoM supported to distribute football tickets to the different communities of Bolton. Over 550 tickets were distributed to different groups and communities working with children and young people. The aim to help build bridges with different communities through participation.

#### **46. Football with the Girls School**

Female football coaches from The Bolton Council of Mosques are now taking part in a culturally sensitive football programme in partnership with Bolton Muslim Girls' School.

The coaches qualified through the Sports Health and Inclusion Volunteers Scheme, were accredited in Level 1 Football Coaching by The F.A., are running a pilot scheme with 20 young girls at the school.

The qualification has aided them in delivering football sessions to a new sector of the community to become involved in sport activities promoting healthier lifestyles. Success of the scheme will result in sessions being held in other institutions within the town.

#### **47. Just For Girls Saturday Club**

Our Female youth Worker every Saturday has been supporting this only female girls programme at the Bolton Lads and Girls Club. The Girls come from different Backgrounds and different community and take part in various activities from Sports, Arts to residential

and outings.

#### **48. Pikes Lane Community Club**

Our Female youth worker has been actively delivering and supporting the establishment of this Just for girls session. Pikes lane community club is an active community group initially primarily delivering to young Males only. Demand from Female young people led to BCoM supporting the girls group to start off with an Arts Project.

#### **49. Bolton Young Ambassadors Inter-Faith Forum**

Bolton Council of Mosques has been managing the Inter-faith Forum which consists of 12 young people who come together on a regular basis and discuss issues important to them, look at Faith, identity and Current Affairs. Through the work the participants have developed Leadership skills, organised and delivered in events to promote unity and interfaith work.

#### **50. Facilitating at the Vision For the Future Conference**

We were privileged to have been asked to showcase a couple of projects at the Vision for the future Steering Conference. Young People from the Interfaith Ambassadors and our Platinum Award Achiever – Khadija Patel Showcased there work to different partners and organisations at the event. 3 members of our team also facilitated the workshops and discussions at the event encouraging the young people and the adults to engage effectively.

#### **51. Mentoring and Development Training**

We have currently 2 young people directly being mentored by 2 volunteers from our bank of Volunteers. 8 Young Adults are currently being supported to sign up to training with Connected Care that will help them to become more confident, give support with research skills and then help them into employment through undertaking Research work within the BME Community.

#### **52. Islamic College Extended Support.**

BCoM is currently working with the Islamic College on Willows lane to support them around the delivery of the P.E Curriculum and the Extra Curriculum activities which has been highlighted as a weakness by ofstead.

Discussions have taken place around: -

- Developing better links with Ladybridge and Hayward School for use of facilities
- Developing a Youth Council / Voice for young people to share requirements and needs.
- Increase activities within the premises by investigating the possibilities of developing an “activity Court” and a Fitness Facility.
- Develop a Swimming and general physical activity programme.

#### **53. Developing Community Champions (Leadership)**

Bolton Council of Mosques have been supporting and developing the capacity of the

following individuals and community groups which has been in the form of

- Leading young peoples group on Expeditions and group work.  
Volunteers from - Ghosia Youth Voice, Zakariyya, Ar-Rahman, Halliwell Youth Projects. 15 Volunteers were involved in this process.
- Moses Gate Community Action Team - Supported to set up as a community – Voluntary organisation. Support given around developing a constitution, managing a youth group and opening a bank account. Currently working with the group and supporting to apply for funding to support young peoples activities. 4 Active community members are currently leading the work in the Moses Gate area to deliver work with targeted young people.
- Volunteer supported from New Madina Mosque – Extended Capital funding application completed and has been successful to set up computer suite. The Volunteers supported to complete application to look at needs, and support given to look at overall project management and skills required to evaluate and deliver the project.

#### **54. Crompton – GMP Young people consultation.**

Working in partnership with the Inspector and Sergeant from the Crompton Ward area a young people's consultation event was held. The event was held at the McDonalds on Blackburn road – 15 young people were involved with discussions on policing, and fears in the community, good things about the community, and bad things about the community were also discussed. Comments and issues raised by the young people – Such as street lighting, dog fouling, drug dealing will be shared with agencies that are most appropriate to deal with.

**A number of initiatives are ongoing as is the work around the development of the community and around cohesion and integration as a whole.**

**BCoM has established itself as a strategic partner as well as a provider of services for the community and is working towards developing the service provision of other providers in order to best maximise opportunities for the BME community.**

**The number of young people that BCoM has been able to engage with (both male and female) exemplifies some excellent pieces of work, many of which are probably one of a kind not only locally but nationally. We need to work with our partners to recognise these achievements locally and nationally and share good practice.**