

BCoM Quarterly Bulletin

Bolton Council of Mosques

January – March 2021

Edition: 001

“Working Towards A Better Future”



Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM) has continued to be the most widely recognised and pro-active Bolton Muslim organisation for more than two decades. BCoM continues to play a vital role in its advocacy for civil liberties, interfaith relations, social harmony and promotion of mental and physical wellbeing. The past year has been extremely difficult and challenging for all, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In these trying times BCoM has stood firm in supporting and helping those most in need across Bolton. It has delivered a plethora of much needed support and services to both the Muslim and non-Muslim population of Bolton.

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BCoM Executive Board

Asif Patel
Chairman

Imteyaz Ali
Secretary

Faisal Rai
Treasurer

Wajid Khan
Executive Board
Member

BCoM Staff

Said Mohammed
Akuji
Funeral Director

Shahnaz Patel
Female Funeral
Lead

Rowshonara
Sardar
Youth Worker

Maulana Yunus
Mohammed
Counsellor

Roohi Hashmi &
Taslim Khan
Admin Workers

Ahmed Ali
Site Supervisor

BCoM Vision, Mission & Aims

Bolton Council of Mosques



BCoM Vision

To develop a successful, confident, and self-aware Muslim community that positively contributes to the economic, social, spiritual and civic life in Bolton



Our Mission

To develop the framework for **addressing the issues affecting Muslims** in Bolton through **effective partnership working**, promoting social unity, tolerance, and respect amongst the residence of Bolton. We will strive to consult/refer, **contribute, help develop**, and where needed, deliver services that meet the needs of the communities residing in Bolton.



Our Aims

Strengthen Muslim Engagement in Bolton
Local Authority wider vision

To identify and address the social, economic, spiritual needs of the Mosques and Muslim Communities

To positively contribute to social equality and create awareness within the Muslim communities of cultural and social differences in order to promote tolerance and respect for all

To actively promote unity, harmony, and cohesion amongst all Bolton



BCoM
Bolton Council of Mosques

Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM) is a representative body representing 30 mosques in Bolton, whose membership comprises of more than 90% of the Bolton Muslim population. The managerial structure at BCoM is based upon democratic principles, where members of the executive board are voted in by the managerial committees of each

member mosque. This enables the executive members of BCoM to have a firm and clear mandate to represent the vast majority of Muslim Boltonians with one voice throughout their tenure.

In the past year, during the COVID - 19 pandemic when people, not only in Bolton, but

nationally and globally, have suffered through ill-health, bereavement, financial restraints, loss of regular incomes and mental illness, BCoM has stood firm and resolute in supporting and helping those most in need. Services people depended upon BCoM to provide, remained functional in adherence to government COVID-19 guidelines during these incredibly challenging times. The funeral service provided the essential support and service to those bereaved. The Admin Staff whilst working from the BCoM office or from home, remained accessible to signpost people to relevant help and support available, whether at BCoM itself or to external agencies. The counselling service remained busy providing much needed therapeutic support through phone or Zoom sessions and so on.

The Executive Board at BCoM cannot be prouder of their staff, supporting agencies and their volunteers for their contribution in supporting Boltonians who faced adverse situations in their lives during the past year.

The Executive Board Members at BCoM wholeheartedly express their gratitude to all its staff and volunteers who worked

tirelessly and sacrificed their time and effort, to aid our quest to better the lives of others.

To showcase the work BCoM and its staff carry out and to create awareness of the projects Boltonians can access through BCoM, BCoM will produce a quarterly Newsletter for mass online distribution. This is the first of its kind and we duly hope you enjoy its contents and publicise it as much as possible to other people too. We want Boltonians to know and be reassured that we are working hard to align our services with the wider Bolton 2030 vision and improve the lives of Boltonians.

Those who would like a copy to be delivered to them four times a year, please contact the BCoM Office on 01204 363680 or email admin@thebcom.org

Asif Patel
Chairman

BCoM COVID-19 Helpline

Bolton Council of Mosques

Helping those most in Need

In March 2020, at the height of the first lockdown when Covid positive cases were rising, hospitals were being over-run and job retainment became uncertain, BCoM initiated the COVID-19 Helpline. It has since helped over 2600 people. Some of the support provided through the helpline was:

- ✓ ***Shopping for the vulnerable, ill and the frail***
- ✓ ***Collecting prescriptions and delivering medicines***
- ✓ ***Delivering food-parcels to those in need***
- ✓ ***Referring those in need to our counselling service***



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Bolton Council of Mosques

WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF BOLTON

CORONAVIRUS

FOR PEOPLE IN ISOLATION

HELP AND SUPPORT

Please call the BCoM dedicated helpline:
01204 363680 OPTION 6
07935 196 976 CALL, TEXT
OR WHATSAPP
 Or Al-Khair Foundation at:
03000 999786
 Operating times, 9am to 9pm

IF YOU NEED HELP:

- ✓ With shopping collection and delivery
- ✓ Medication collection and healthcare advice
- ✓ Food hamper referral (conditions apply)
- ✓ A friendly phone call to overcome loneliness

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

 Al-Khair FOUNDATION
  Bolton CVS
 
 URBAN! OUTREACH

BCoM, 1 Vicarage Street, Bolton, BL3 5LE www.thebcom.org
 Alkhair Foundation, 305 derby st Bolton BL3 6UE www.AIKhair.org @THEBCOM1

BCoM Upskilling Muslim Women

Bolton Council of Mosques



40 Muslim women were helped with vital skills to help them find suitable employment. They were provided with training and awareness in:

- ✓ Interview skills
- ✓ Writing a CV
- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ The importance of teamwork and other soft skills

They were also provided with Career Guidance Mentoring to enable them to enhance their confidence and believe in themselves to seek suitable employment.

The desired impact of this is:

- *Opportunities for Muslim women to actively participate in Bolton civic and societal life*
- *Enable networking for Muslim women between other communities*
- *Increased personal development*
- *Reduction of social isolation*
- *Increase of confidence and self-esteem*





FREE FEMALE WORKSKILLS COURSE
Enrolment on the 13th of October at 2pm, please arrive promptly
Venue at BCoM
Light refreshments provided

You will receive a certificate for your participation on completion of this course

Please bring in your ID and National Insurance number. This course will not affect your benefits.

Delivered remotely and tailored to your learning needs

REGISTER YOUR PLACE ON
07935 196976

@thebcom1





For further information, please contact Rowshon 01204 363680 option 6 or email FYW@thebcom.org address 1 Vicarage St., Bolton, BL3 5LE

This course will allow you to develop a range of employability skills.

In addition to this a CV, Cover Letter, Confidence Building workshops, preparation for interviews and pathways to gaining a qualification in the career of your choice.

Please contact us for further information.

Eligibility: Must be aged 16 years old and over, not in employment or training.



BCOM Cancer Awareness

Bolton Council of Mosques

Answer Cancer Campaign

Answer Cancer Campaign has been an ongoing project creating awareness in the Asian Female Community about the most common and prevalent types of cancers affecting them. The campaign has thus far covered:

- *Bowel Cancer – causes and symptoms*
- *Breast Cancer – Symptoms*
- *Cervical Cancer – Identifying the signs*
- *Cancer – as serious illness and the help available*

BCOM through various such initiatives is working tirelessly in promoting:

- Healthy Living and Healthy eating*
- Regular Health Checks for early diagnosis of illnesses*
- Regular exercise*

WHAT IS CANCER SCREENING?

JOIN US AND LEARN
ABOUT THE UK'S NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMMES FOR:
BREAST, BOWEL & CERVICAL CANCER

MORE INFO: HEALTHPROMOTION@BRITISHIMA.ORG

17:30 – 18:30pm
Wednesday 11th November 2020

ONLINE (VIA ZOOM)
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014149677?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014149677?pwd=MUNyblUN5VGRxVGMyM1pHeEkwcmVrZz09)
[pwd=MUNyblUN5VGRxVGMyM1pHeEkwcmVrZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014149677?pwd=MUNyblUN5VGRxVGMyM1pHeEkwcmVrZz09)

Meeting ID: 890 1414 9677
Passcode: 8q7ym1

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014149677?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014149677?pwd=MUNyblUN5VGRxVGMyM1pHeEkwcmVrZz09)
In collaboration with **BCOM**
Bolton Council of Mosques

MCB
The Muslim Council of Britain

BRITISH ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

[@BritishIMA](https://www.britishima.org)
[@britishima](https://www.britishima.org)

BCoM Food Aid Programme

Bolton Council of Mosques



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Bolton Council of Mosques

Bolton's Fund
Supporting the Muslim Community

BOLTON COUNCIL OF MOSQUES PRESENTS

FOOD AID

DO YOU LIVE IN BOLTON?
DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN LIVING WITH YOU?
ARE YOU IN NEED OF FOOD?

CALL US ON:
01204 363680 OPTION 6 (10AM - 4PM) OR
EMAIL US AT ADMIN@THEBCOM.ORG

We will arrange for a food pack to be delivered to your home.

Halal Meat Provided
Terms & Conditions Apply

1 Vicarage St, Bolton, BL3 5LE

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www.thebcom.org



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BOLTON COUNCIL OF MOSQUES PRESENTS

RAMADAN IFTAR PACK 2021

Back by Popular Demand

For Iftar Pack Referrals & Nominations Please contact us below

HAPPINESS IS SHARING IFTAR WITH OTHERS

For More Information Contact:
01204 363680 - Option 6 or
email us at admin@thebcom.org

If you would like to donate to BCoM (Lillah only):
Payee: BCoM
Sort Code: 30 - 91 - 01
Account No.: 00119810

Ref: Iftar Pack 2021

100% Donation Policy

1 Vicarage St, Bolton, BL3 5LE Reg Charity No. 1114004

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www.thebcom.org

BCoM has helped over 1800 people with food aid and support. It has made more than 500 deliveries of essentials and basic food needs through funding from Bolton CVS. Last year, BCoM donated and delivered over 1500 iftar packs to those in need. This initiative will continue this year too.

"A picture is worth a thousand words"

BCoM Tackling Loneliness

Bolton Council of Mosques

Supporting those hospitalised

BCoM has successfully liaised with the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Bolton Hospital and the hospital staff to:

- *To ensure those hospitalised and unable to communicate with their loved ones had a visit from one of our volunteers to ensure their wellbeing and to inform their loved ones about their care and recovery*
- *Provide them with Quran Cubes and iPads*
- *Support the NHS Staff with food*

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Bolton Council of Mosques

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

We know how hard it is for you not to be able to visit your loved ones in hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic.

To help you stay in touch with your loved ones, BCoM has volunteers to help with:

- Moral & emotional support
- Communication with your loved one via phone, video call or letter
- And facilitate in any other concerns you may have with the hospital

We are here to support you

To use this service please call us on:
01204 363680 (option 6)

1 Vicarage St, Bolton, BL3 5LE

BCoM
www.bcom.org

Supporting the community at its most vulnerable time

BCoM Funeral Service has conducted sixty six funerals since the second lockdown in January and 390 funerals in the year 2020. When a death occurs in the Muslim community, our Funeral Director and other volunteers are with the bereaved family at every step of the way providing guidance and support. Our Funeral Team organise the burial, prayer facilities, bathing and the shrouding along with the bereaved family.

Thereafter, our counselling service is freely available to provide such intervention if it is needed.

During the pandemic, adherence to the government strict guidelines for burial were not only explained to the bereaved families but they were supported through each step.

If You require any assistance with funeral arrangements please contact our funeral director directly, SaidMohammed Akuji on 01204 392919. This number is a 24 hour hotline.



BCoM Counselling Service

Bolton Council of Mosques

BCoM Counselling Service has continued its support and service for all Boltonians during the pandemic and the lockdown. It has continued to provide this vital service via Zoom and telephone. BCoM Counselling Service is a member of the British Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP) and all its counsellors are qualified to a degree level to provide such an intervention. The service is free for all and has been since its inception in 2007. The service is unique in the North West because of its understanding of the cultural and religious sensitivities of its clients. It prides itself on adherence to the BACP Code of Ethics, confidentiality and professionalism in its delivery. If you know someone who may benefit from this service, contact us on 01204 363680 or email us on admin@thebcom.org

Contact
Share
Laugh
Grow

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Bolton Council of Mosques

ARE YOU FEELING
VULNERABLE
DEPRESSED
LONELY
STRESSED OR
ANXIOUS?

COVID-19
COUNSELLING SUPPORT

✓ Do not suffer in silence
✓ We are here to help
✓ BCoM have a dedicated team of professional counsellors who can offer FREE telephone support

☎ 01204 363680 Option 6

BCoM, 1 Vicarage St. Bolton, BL3 5LE - www.thebcom.org @THEBCOM1