



Listen with Respect and Speak with Pride

BCF: Faiths Promoting Health and Wellbeing

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We have now been organising twice yearly Faith, Health and Wellbeing Seminars since 2013, during which we have covered a wide range of topics including dementia, child and adolescent mental health, community health, self care, complementary therapies, social prescribing, GP chaplaincy, end of life care, spiritual support, disability and dignity in care. Most of these presentations have been uploaded on the BCF website.

It was agreed by the BCF Management Committee that Faiths have an important role to play in influencing future health policy and practice. It was, therefore, agreed to establish BCF: Faiths Promoting Health and Wellbeing with the following objectives.

These are intended to be **dynamic objectives**, which can be amended as, and when, necessary:-

1. Provide a faiths forum for health and wellbeing issues to be discussed.
2. Provide a faith perspective on the commissioning and provision of health and social care services.
3. Encourage faiths' involvement in the governance, public participation and advocacy in health and social care organisations.
4. Encourage initiatives to increase spirituality, compassion, dignity and respect for people receiving health and social care.
5. Promote implementation of the Birmingham Public Health Strategy, especially amongst faith communities, who are among the 'hard to reach' groups. Emphasis may be given to specific initiatives such as:-
 - a) Promoting social prescribing
 - b) Promoting the development and access to complementary therapies
 - c) Promoting parity of esteem towards people with mental health issues, particularly those with dementia and on the autistic spectrum.
 - d) Reducing loneliness and isolation,
 - e) Providing safe environments for children and vulnerable adults, and
 - f) Promoting safe childbirth and healthy infant care.
6. Act as a conduit for consulting on, and disseminating, documents related to health and wellbeing amongst people and organisations on the mailing list.
7. Arrange an annual, or more frequent, seminar to inform, and consider health and wellbeing issues of current interest. The seminars will include health professionals, faiths' members, chaplains, educationists, care workers, charity workers, carers and patients – the seminar will be on the topic of 'the first 1000 days (of birth).

Members of the Steering Group include:-

Faith representatives, General Practice Chaplaincy, University Hospital Birmingham Chaplaincy, Mental Health Chaplaincy, Home from Hospital, Police Chaplain, Public Health, Healthwatch, Birmingham City Council, Social Care, Voluntary and Community Sector.

We have sent a number of documents for information or consultation to people listed on our Faiths Promoting Health and Wellbeing mailing list.

Peter

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Coordinator

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