



Laura notes from the meeting:

GROW and ECBL's cluster meetings are designed to help groups network and find out how they can support each other.

WWMFF: West Wiltshire Multi-Faith Forum

Mission of WWMFF is to encourage mutual understanding, respect and integration between different faiths.

Chair: Farzana Saker

Provide training, events and work in schools.

Currently all volunteers, need support and administration provision, storage space, point of contact and room use for meetings etc.

WICC: Wiltshire Islamic Cultural Centre

www.wiltshire-icc.org

Founded in 2008, based at Bridge House in Trowbridge

Work with SACRE and SCAR

Trowbridge has 2nd largest Moroccan population in the UK after London

Both organisations work in schools to encourage understanding of different faiths between children and address youth issues. Wiltshire Council has funded some of this work but they are always in need of project-funding to carry out these workshops.

In February this year WWMFF held a family fun day in Trowbridge Civic Centre for people of all or no religious background and had over 1000 people attend.

Also work on diversity issues with housing associations.

Some major issues that came from group discussions included:

- Mental health problems being seen as a stigma in Islamic community and so people not requesting help. Richmond Fellowship were attending cluster and will now arrange to go to a future WWMFF meeting/event

Victim Support were also in attendance and their officer said that in the last 7 months (since she had worked for them) they had not received one report of Hate Crime from anyone of Islamic background, but they are quite aware actual cases are high. She will also attend a future meeting/event to try and encourage people to report Hate Crime and make them aware that this does not mean it needs to be reported to the police if they don't wish but it means there is the option of confidential



reporting to a Victim Support officer who could talk through the incident with them and offer some help/advice etc.

- Discussion on need for 'good news' storied about Islamic and Polish communities and how they are integrated in Britain, to combat the negative media coverage.

For more information on engaging Muslim communities see this ECBL guide:

<http://db.tt/OOVPUTKw>

ECBL: <http://developecs.ning.com/page/ecbl-equalities-wilts>