



To: Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health – Cllr Tim Bick
Report by: Head of Community Development
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services 13/10/2011
Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected: All

Community Cohesion and Inclusion Initiatives – ‘Prevent’ Funding

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress with work to engage, and work with, Muslim communities within the City to strengthen mutual understanding and community cohesion.
- 1.2 The report describes how this work has been taken forward collectively with a steering group of representatives of Muslim communities and the voluntary sector since a report to the committee in January 2011.
- 1.3 It sets out how some of the one-off ‘Prevent’ funding was used to support the highly successful Mela held as part of Big Weekend in July, and some funding has been allocated, through a grants process, to support a programme of small projects (up to a value of £5,000) run by primarily Muslim and BME community groups. A recommendation is made to award a grant of £6,000 to the YMCA.
- 1.4 The report also explains how some larger projects have been and are being developed by officers, in consultation with the steering group, to respond to some themes that came out of the grants process. Recommendations for allocating the remaining funding to 3 larger projects are made.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To award a grant to the YMCA for the project set out at 5.1.
- 2.2 To agree funding based on the projects set out at 5.3, and 5.4.

- 2.3 To agree funding, in principle, for the project set out at 5.5, subject to agreement of the scoping report and consultation with Chair and Spokes.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 13th January 2011 the Scrutiny Committee considered an initiative to allocate funding from government linked to their Prevent Strategy. Members will recall that the Prevent Strategy is the preventative strand of the government's counter terrorism strategy – CONTEST, launched in 2007. The City Council was finally provided with £138,000 in 2010/11 as a one-off sum to help implement the strategy. The money was not ring-fenced but was allocated on the basis that the city has a growing Muslim community and that Muslim communities are potentially targets of radical extremists seeking to recruit to their cause.
- 3.2 The initiative was developed with the Cambridge Community Cohesion Group (a sub group of the Local Strategic Partnership) involving the police, County Council services, health, fire and voluntary organisations.
- 3.3 Based on their particular knowledge of BME and Muslim communities, the group advised that the most appropriate priorities for the city should be to promote integration and community cohesion and to seek to address grievances that can build up when people feel they are not listened to and do not get fair access to services and opportunities. It was considered that focussing on these issues would help to build capacity and understanding within and between groups which in turn would help communities to support and deter those who may be vulnerable to extremists. A broad funding allocation comprising a number of themes was agreed to reflect these priorities.
- 3.4 Following the meeting in January 2011, a steering group was set up comprising members of the Muslim community, Cambridge CVS, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum and an elected member. The purpose of the steering group has been to advise officers and the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health on how the money should be allocated to projects and initiatives.
- 3.5 The steering group wanted to encourage initiatives to grow mutual respect and understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim communities. Steering group members valued the role of organisation and leadership within the Muslim communities themselves in building confidence within the broader community and in reducing the potential

for social isolation of some of their members - especially considering young people and the formative role of women.

- 3.6 It has been emphasised all along that the 'Prevent' funding received in 2010/11 was 'one-off' and that there was no on-going funding. Therefore, when giving their advice, the steering group and officers have considered whether proposed projects are financially viable and whether they leave a legacy on their completion.
- 3.7 Section 4 of this report sets out how the funding has been allocated to date and recommends some larger projects for approval.
- 3.8 On 7th June 2011 the coalition government published its '*Prevent Review*' which includes a new Prevent Strategy. This can be seen at the following link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/counter-terrorism/prevent/prevent-strategy/>
- 3.9 The new strategy seeks to address all forms of terrorism, including the extreme right wing. However, it makes clear that future Prevent work must be targeted against those forms of terrorism that pose the greatest risk to our national security. The new strategy is less about encouraging integration and cohesion and has 3 specific objectives:
- Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
 - Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism
 - Working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation
- 3.10 In future, government funding will be allocated according to identified risk and not on the basis of demographics (as was the case). As far as we know, Cambridge is not likely to receive any further funding linked to the Prevent Strategy in the near future.

4. Funding Committed

- 4.1 The steering group agreed that £20,000 should be allocated for the Mela which was held on Parkers Piece on 10th July 2011 and formed part of Big Weekend. This was very successful and brought thousands of people together from many different Asian and non-Asian communities. The Mela was in stark contrast to the English Defence League's protest on the 9th August and emphasised Cambridge as a truly multi-cultural and tolerant city.
- 4.2 A grants process, based upon the broad themes set out in the January 2011 scrutiny report was set up in consultation with the steering group. The closing date for applications was 30th April 2011. Voluntary

and Community organisations were invited to apply for grants to run projects that would benefit members of Muslim communities in Cambridge to:

- Increase skills, knowledge and confidence in organising community activities and fundraising
- Encourage more community involvement in the organisation of youth and play activities in particular
- Enable improvements in public services arising from greater awareness and understanding of community needs and better ways to deliver these services
- Enable parents/families to feel more knowledgeable and confident about dealing with issues involving their children
- Increase opportunities for people of different backgrounds to come together to promote good relations and mutual respect

4.3 A total of 44 applications were received from 17 organisations and another 6 partnership bids requesting a total of over £225,000. The grants were assessed against the above criteria and reviewed by the steering group and Chair and Spokes of Community Services Scrutiny Committee. The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health then awarded the programme of grants shown at Appendix A. The total amount awarded to date under this process is £41,460.

5. Funding Proposed

5.1 YMCA - United Youth Group

5.1.1 In addition to the grants already awarded, it is proposed to award a grant of £6,000 to the YMCA to set up a United Youth group based on their successful work with a similar group in Peterborough.

5.1.2 The YMCA will engage with local Muslim communities to form a mixed gender group of young Muslims of different nationalities, aged 13-19, with participation extended to non Muslims. The United Youth Group will be facilitated to enable young people to lead the group themselves. Weekly meetings develop and investigate a variety of themes via specific workshops and open discussions. (eg identity, Britishness, what it means to be a young Muslim in Britain today, multiculturalism, Islam in England, challenges for young people.) Other activities include sport, arts and crafts, cookery, activity weekend/residentials.

5.2 The assessment process for the grants also identified three themes which officers have been seeking to respond to in consultation with the steering group. These are:

- Using sport to engage young Muslim people, to build their skills and confidence and bring people from different communities together.
- Capacity building within the Bangladeshi community to develop and expand their skills and knowledge and help them integrate more widely.
- Providing advice to Muslim residents

5.3 Using Sport to engage young Muslims

5.3.1 Three applications relating to sport and totalling £50,000 were received during the grants process. Officers from Community Development and Sports Development propose to work with the applicants and different sports clubs. The aim will be to offer taster sessions and short programmes to young Muslims, themed around different sports. The objective will be to help and encourage participants to join established clubs or to work with other local people to form their own informal clubs. The cost of this proposal will be £31,925. The project will be led by Sports Development and will run from January 2012 to April 2013.

5.3.2 It is proposed to develop and take forward a project based on the scoping paper shown at Appendix B.

5.4 Capacity Building within the Bangladeshi Community

5.4.1 The Bangladeshi community have some of the highest needs within Cambridge. Officers propose to work with the Bangladeshi community to help increase their skills, knowledge and confidence so that they have more capacity to access services, fundraise and to organise community activities which bring people together. Officers propose to build upon the 'Community Co-ordinator' model (currently being trailed by government) by employing a skilled Community Development worker with particular experience in working closely with Bangladeshi communities. The cost of this proposal will be £23,600. The project will run for 12 months from January 2012.

5.4.2 A scoping paper for the project is shown at Appendix C.

5.5 Providing advice to Muslim residents

5.5.1 The Muslim Council has submitted an application to set up an advice service for Muslim residents. Officers are discussing options with the Muslim Council and Citizen's Advice Bureau about how such a service might be taken forward.

5.5.2 Options also include the possible provision of a website, provided by the Muslim Council, containing information about the Muslim Communities in Cambridge which service providers can use to ensure their services are inclusive.

5.5.3 It is proposed that £15,000 be allocated to this theme and that work is progressed in consultation with CAB and the Muslim Council so that a scoping paper can be agreed by the Executive Councillor in consultation with the Chair and Spokes.

6. Spending profile

6.1 The following table summarises the spending profile for the City Council's Prevent budget.

6.2 Spending profile for Prevent Funding

Projects	2011/12	2012/13	Comments
Mela	£20,000		Complete – see section 4
Small grants	£41,460		Awarded – see Appendix A
Small grants	£6,000		YMCA Project – see 5.1
Themed projects	£16,105	£54,420	Proposed – see 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Annual Total	£83,565	£54,420	
Total		£137,985	

7. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications.

(b) Staffing Implications

None, apart from the re-prioritisation of staff time to manage the grants process and projects.

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

The primary focus of this funding programme is to try and address inequalities and further improve cohesion within the Muslim communities in Cambridge.

An equalities impact assessment has been carried out. This has focused on whether there are equalities implications within the funding programme as it applies to Muslim communities within the city. It does not highlight any significant implications.

(d) Environmental Implications

The climate change rating is Nil. There are no significant environmental implications.

(e) Consultation

There was extensive consultation with partners at the outset about how this work should be approached. In particular, a considerable amount of time was spent liaising with Muslim communities to gain their buy-in to our process for taking the work forward. The new Cambridge Muslim Council emerged partly as a result of these early discussions.

A steering group comprising members of the Muslim community and representatives from Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum and Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services has provided advice as the work has evolved. Cllr O'Reilly, Opposition Spokes for Community Development and Health, has also been part of the steering group and has been regularly briefed on progress since her election in May.

(f) Community Safety

The Council's approach to the Prevent agenda has been to work with Muslim communities to bring people closer together, to build trust and understanding, so that vulnerable individuals can be supported and deterred from the views of extremists.

8. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Equalities Impact Assessment dated 13 September 2011

9. Appendices

Appendix A	List of grants that have been awarded.
Appendix B	Scoping paper for Sports Project

7. **Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Trevor Woollams
Author's Phone Number: 01223 457861
Author's Email: Trevor.woollams@cambridge.gov.uk

Appendix A – Grant Awards

Group Organisation	Project	Award £
Afghan & Pakhtun Society of Cambridge (NEW)	Social gatherings, cultural events, youth events, sports activities, Dance competitions and women coffee mornings (6 different activities)	2,000
Akeelah (girls club)	Film making and creative writing - integration	1,000
Anglo-Maroc Friendship Society	Awareness raising event about medieval Islam to change the mind of young Muslims	2,000
Bangladesh Welfare & Cultural Association Cambridge	Weekly youth sessions	3,000
Building Bridges, Cambridge	3 English conversation classes to run weekly at three different venues, inc equipment and monthly meeting for friendship & discussion	2,000
Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum	Develop an Asian Women's Network in East Cambridge for Bangladeshi women. Social forum to organise activities and discuss issues.	5,000
Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum	The variety of Islam - highlighting positive contributions Islamic faith made to our society. Yp from a range of communities to undertake interviews, media training, outreach sessions	5,000
Cambridge Mauritius Society	Muslim/Islam weekend - talks, drama	660
Cambridge Muslim Welfare Association	4 open days in Mawson Road Mosque	2,000
Cambridge Muslim Women's Urdu Association	Weekly classes and activities for YP	1,000
Cambridge Professionals Society	Seminars & workshops - Away from extremism	2,800
Cambridge Quranic Cultural Awareness Group.	Muslim Youth Monthly magazine	1,500
Cambridge Senior Muslims	Community Cohesion with mainstream seniors - integrate and create awareness of each others culture	2,000
Pakistan Cultural Association	Children's quarterly newsletter	1,500
Pakistan Cultural Association	IT Training project for women's sub group, members, YP and job seekers.	2,500
Women 4 integration	Start up a group for women of Pakistan origin to integrate the younger adults and to integrate with white and other BME	2,000
Pakistan Cultural Association - Anchal Group in collaboration with CECF	Monthly meetings (coffee mornings) at Ross St Community Centre from 1-4pm. Develop and promote activities for Pakistan Women over 50.	1,500
Cambridge Iqbal Forum Partnership	Lectures, talks and discussions addressing social and cultural issues encountered by the Cambridge community	2,000
AIU Partnership	All Inclusive Understanding meetings – community cohesion and living in a multicultural society	2,000
TOTAL AWARDS made to date		41,460

Appendix B

Prevent Project Proposal: Sports Development

Background

Community groups representing BME and Muslim residents were invited to apply for grant funding for projects that would help to achieve the priority themes set out in a report to Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 13 January 2011. These priorities emerged following consultation with Muslim groups within the City.

One of the priorities was: Social, sports and arts activities for children and young people.

3 applications requesting a total of £49,884 and relating to access to sport for young people were received. The applications were from:

Bangladeshi Welfare and Cultural Association.

To establish sports clubs including football for young Bangladeshi people, especially related to the needs of young women

Sports coaching

Cambridge Pakistan Cultural Association (Partnership application)

Promote advantages of physical activity and increase participation of young people in sport

Learn concept of fair play, sportsmanship and competitiveness

Form cricket and squash clubs for 9-25 years and organise training and matches

Cambridge Quranic Cultural Awareness Group

Equality of access to sports for young Muslim women

Including sports such as football, netball, basketball, swimming, karate, badminton, tennis, judo, salsa, aerobics etc.

The rationale behind these applications was to build the confidence of young Muslims so that they feel able to challenge prejudice and stereotypes within their own communities and wider society.

Officers have discussed these proposals with the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health and the Prevent Steering Group and agreed that a single project should be developed with the applicants using the expertise of the Council's Sports Development Team.

Aims and Outcomes

The aim of the project will be to work closely with the community groups that made the applications and:

Engage and encourage 100 young Muslim people (male and female) to try different sports by running taster sessions, taken by trained coaches from local sports clubs.

Bring young Muslim people from different Muslim communities together to play different sports under a programme of managed sessions to build their confidence, skills and abilities.

Encourage those young Muslim people who attend the programme to join mainstream sports clubs or to set up their own informal clubs.

The outcomes of the project will be:

Greater confidence and skills for young Muslim residents

Improved integration between Muslim groups and with the wider community

The creation of effective role models for other young Muslims in Cambridge.

The Project

The proposal is to run a 15 month project starting in January 2012 and led by Sports Development. Key elements of the project will be:

- Carry out an **audit of availability** of premises and coaches from sports clubs.
- Set up a small **steering group** comprising one member from each of the 3 lead applicants, a City Council Sports Development Officer [Steve Morley], a Senior ChYpPS Manager [Janet Parish] and a Community Development Officer [Ariadne Henry]. The steering group will oversee delivery of the project, monitor spend and advise the **Project Manager** [Steve Morley].
- **Employ 2 part time Community /Sports Development Workers** who will have expert knowledge of the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities including cultural and religious sensitivities. To this end, it is important that at least one of the workers is female. Some of this element of the project could possibly be undertaken alongside (or by) volunteers from the communities themselves.
- Work with the applicants and other Muslim groups to **engage young Muslim people and consult them on the sports they would like to try**.
- **Develop a programme** including initial taster events, managed sessions and competitions, training (e.g. to help some individuals gain coaching skills) – all taken by qualified sports coaches.

- Introduce those completing the programme to **local sports clubs** or assist participants to form their **own informal clubs**.
- **Evaluation**

Sustainability

The intention at the end of the project will be to encourage those young Muslim people who complete the programme to join a sports club so that they can carry on improving their skills and compete against a wide range of members.

It is also hoped that some of the themed sessions within the programme can be sustained by, for example, a group of young Muslim people deciding to set up a badminton club where they hire a weekly court at Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre or a hall at a local community centre.

Cost estimate

2 x Part time Community Development Workers @ Grade 4 for 15 months (12 hrs per week each)	£20,625 max
Venue hire for taster events and programme sessions £30 ph x 2 hrs x 80 sessions	£4,800
Coaching staff £25 x 2 hrs x 80 sessions	£4,000
Equipment (e.g. bats, balls, team kits, rackets)	£2,500
Project Total	£31,925

There may be some flexibility within these costs if, for example, some of the community development work was carried out by volunteers with suitable skills. In this case, more of the budget could be used to fund additional coaching sessions.

Appendix C

Prevent Project Proposal: Bangladeshi Capacity Building

Background

The process of working closely with members of the City's Muslim communities has been very rewarding and has helped to develop understanding between members of the steering group. However, the grants process and more detailed discussions with Bangladeshi representatives has highlighted a particular need within their community.

Whilst the Bangladeshi community is the largest Asian community in Cambridge, they have some of the highest needs and would really benefit from some dedicated development support to help build their community capacity.

Aims and Outcomes

The aims of the project will be two-fold:

- a) to work closely with all the Bangladeshi groups within the City, bringing them together to build their strength, knowledge and confidence so that they are more cohesive and better placed to access the information and services they need and to undertake activities such as fundraising, training and cultural activities.
- b) to further strengthen the positive relationship between the Council and the Bangladeshi community, to enable the Council to learn more about their needs so that we can ensure our services are accessible and that any existing barriers are reduced or removed.

The Project

The proposal is to run a 12 month project starting in January 2012. Key elements of the project will be:

- Recruit a **skilled Community Co-ordinator** who has extensive experience of working with Bangladeshi communities and has particular knowledge of the Bangladeshi community within Cambridge.
- Work with Bangladeshi representatives to **agree a work plan** that brings all the groups together, involves women and young people and provides training and support to key people who can develop into active community representatives.

- **Implement** the work plan with the community
- **Evaluation**

Sustainability

At the end of the project the Bangladeshi community will have developed more active members. They will be more cohesive and better placed to help themselves by accessing funding and the services they need.

The Council will have a better understanding of the culture and needs of the Bangladeshi community and will be able to use this understanding to improve service delivery.

Cost

Community Co-ordinator salary for 12 months Band 6 at 20 hrs per week	£21,000
Support costs – transport, use of PC etc.	£2,600
Project Total	£23,600