

Reports

Bids for Funding

The Building for Strength consortium, of which RFF is a member, will get the grant this autumn subject to a business plan now being written. RFF will get a half time development worker to work with less involved faith groups for three years. *NJH Longer reports available for those interested.*

Greening Faith

Reported in BBC Berkshire online & TV BBC South Sunday evening

Screening of Age of Stupid to be arranged at Town Hall

$\frac{3}{4}$ of feedback forms received wanted another event on the green agenda

2 faith networks were started and have met since April

Hearing Voices

Count me in Census, an annual survey, showed disturbing research for GP referrals from Black & Pakistani communities, 63 & 58 % below average for those entering the mental health institutions. The conference is aiming to bridge the gap between faith communities and health / statutory workers and for the faith communities to find out what is being done and where the 'gaps' are.

The audience will come from those in pastoral / care roles in faith communities and those involved in community health work.

What is mental health? The Primary Care Trust have written a short explanation and we will produce a leaflet for each delegate at the conference.

We will also have different faiths to comment and are offering a paragraph on their faith in relation to mental health. This leaflet will go to all delegates and after the conference to all faith communities.

RE in Schools

In Autumn 2009 there will be training offered by REinspired, a voluntary organization, an ecumenical charity working in Earley and East Reading that engages over 6,000 children and young people in 2 secondary schools and 22 primary schools with creative, engaging and spiritually developing R.E. Lessons and Collective Worship. This training is offered to all in the faith communities to help deliver RE in schools.

Website

Stronger Together is creating its own website. This will include all Forums - and therefore Reading Faith Forum.

It will be easier to use, there will be 3 different layers of access with passwords. The old website will stay in situ until everything has been duplicated to the new site and Reading Voluntary Action database. *Jan Hearn June 2009*

Reports from LSP, CDSSG and LINK were received at the last Faith Forum.

Updates are as follows:

LSP Newsletter available

LINK

The meeting discussed LINK Elections, a proposal to employ a researcher to support the work of the Task and Finish groups, and Adult Care Inspection (LINK have agreed to support RBC's request to facilitate two focus groups where the Care Quality Commission are inspecting Adult Social Care in the RBC.) The meeting received updates from the Footcare Task & Finish Group and the Diabetes Task & Finish Group and other issues. The Issues/Enquiries spreadsheets had been reformatted and updated. *More details from John Rogers.*

Report From Community Development Strategy Steering Group Representative

The new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) has a far more explicit focus on reducing inequality and improving outcomes for those with greatest needs, encapsulated in a whole new chapter *A Fairer Reading For All*. The following are the top 3 priorities for improvement for Reading within this theme,

- Reduce inequality between Reading's neighbourhoods NI 152
- Reduce levels of poverty, particularly where affected are children NI 116
- Develop a strong sense of inclusive citizenship and cohesion NI 4

Effective community development has a particular resonance with NI 4 above and in more general terms with supporting those communities with greatest needs. *Andrew Taylor Full report available*