



Annual Report

April 2013- Mar 2014

Hamara Centre

Rear of 158 Castleton Road
Preston PR1 6QH

Telephone: **01772-889000**

prestonmuslimforum@live.co.uk

www.prestonmuslimforum@live.co.uk

Charity Registration No: 1064609

Company No: 3054937

Page 1 of 9 – PMF Annual Report 2013-2014

INTRODUCTION

Preston Muslim Forum (PMF) is a community based organisation established in 1991 by volunteers to provide a link between the community and statutory agencies. Since then PMF has evolved and now serve as a platform to reflect the ever changing needs of the community.

PMF serves as a first port of call for mainly but not exclusively members of public from BME backgrounds and is due to the organisation's extensive experience of working at 'ground level' and with trust and relationship developed over the years with community and service providers alike. The organisation has been positively changing the lives of people facing multiple disadvantages in Preston for the past 23 years, through information, advice, sign posting, referrals, practical support and advocacy.

OUR AIMS:

1. Provide one to one information, advice and practical support for the issues that matter most to them, delivered by qualified staff and trained volunteers.
2. Develop employability and life skills of people facing disadvantages, through targeted employment and learning support.
3. Engage with young people to address issues related to social disorder, drugs-alcohol abuse and juvenile crime in partnership with local youth groups and statutory agencies.
4. Support older people by engaging them and providing safe environment to promote their wellbeing and independence.
5. Work with community groups to develop their capacity and potential through provision of on-going support.
6. Promote awareness of the issues that affects and concerns the community through partnership working with local authorities and statutory agencies.
7. Fostering understanding and co-operation between communities through multi-faith and cohesion initiatives.

Chair's Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of PMF for the period 2013- 2014.

I am pleased to report that we have had a very busy and successful period with significant increase in people accessing our services mainly to seek support for complex welfare benefit issues.

We were able to meet 4 priorities out of the 6 identified in the last Annual Report and we are working towards achieving the aims of the remaining two priorities. These are as follows:

1. Deliver sustained employment support to meet growing needs of long term unemployed.
Secured funding from European Social Fund and successfully delivered employment support project by working closely with the Job Centre Plus.
2. Enhance community participation in the area of neighbourhood issues, cohesion and empowerment.
Working closely with the local groups, City and County Council to initiate food growing project.
3. Work closely with the County and City Councils to deliver local agendas.
On-Going
4. Develop services for elderly people and people suffering from mental health in terms of their lower level needs.
Luncheon Club launched on 15th June 2014
5. Develop services related to support planning for elderly and vulnerable.
PMF now delivers person centred support plans for elderly in meeting their personal care needs.
6. Develop organisation's capacity in the areas of tendering and commissioning.
On-Going

We are conscious of the additional pressure on PMF's limited resources due to prevailing uncertainty of funding opportunities. We are however committed to meeting this challenge by becoming financially self-sustainable at least to the extent that we are able to meet on-going core costs.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank all staff, volunteers, service users, stakeholders and agencies for their positive contribution and especially to our co-opted director for his continuing and pro-active involvement.

Ismail Rawat

Chair

CORE SERVICES

Demand for employment support increased by 45% during the year mainly as a result of successful partnership with Job Centre Plus and our enhanced ability to deliver through targeted funding from ESF and generic funding support from Preston City Council.

We have seen significant increase in the services related to welfare benefits and this includes;

- Cases of suspension of Job Seekers Allowance
- Review of Personal Independence Payment (DLA) and Employment Support Allowance
- Medical assessment for benefit claim
- Attending appeals and tribunals etc.

We do this by explaining the process, criteria, scoring, talking through prior to Work Capacity Assessment, accompanying clients to the offices of Job Centre Plus, constructing appeals and coordinating paper work, follow up with agencies and sign post as deemed necessary.

PRESTON CITY COUNCIL

A 9 month project targeted the long term unemployed, people on Employment Support Allowance and Women returning to work either for the first time or after a very long break.

The number of people benefited from the project is as follows:

- Employment Support 50
- Welfare Benefits 149
- Other Support 92
- Volunteers 4
- Community Groups 2

The following data is a breakdown of other details relating to the above clients:

Age group: 25 to 70 years– mainly over-50s

- 55% Women
- 45% Men
- 32% with physical or mental disabilities

We are however committed to provide uninterrupted services with reducing VCF funding.

We have also continued to support other priorities of Preston City Council such as;

- tackling neighbourhood issues
- increase community participation
- empowerment for residents by working closely with their Community Engagement department

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

The project 'Access2Success' from April to Sept 2013 was a huge success in terms of meeting targets and positive evaluation of the project.

The partnership established with local Job Centre Plus enabled them to refer their clients to us for conditionality assessment and intense employment support.

The following is a breakdown of project participants:

- Male 17
- Female 12
- Referred by Job Centre Plus 14
- Employment gained 5
- Volunteering opportunities created 4
- Further learning opportunities created 8 women

We were also able to secure further 12 months funding to deliver Access2Success from June 2014 to May 2015.

ADULT SERVICES & PUBLIC HEALTH– NHS ENGLAND

Community insight work was commissioned to better understand low uptake of breast and cervical screening services by the women from ethnic minorities.

The project explored the knowledge and pattern of uptake of services by the target group, identified barriers to access the services and made recommendations based on participant's feedback, 87 women from BME backgrounds and aged between 16 to 70 years contributed to the project.

The project entailed;

- one to one questionnaires
- workshops
- presentation from health professionals to project participants
- joint insight work with local GPs.

The success of the project has enabled us to secure further funding as an extension to the above project with a wider challenging remit.

YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT

The project was funded by Young People's Services and covered 7 topics.

- A total of 18 sessions were delivered plus 2 workshops
- 36 hours were spent for sessions
- 5 hours for workshops
- 19 hrs for preparation

Approx 12hrs were allocated for one to one sessions especially for employment support on an on-going basis. This was requested by young people as they thought it would assist them individually, the age group was 16 to 19 years and they were all male.

The project was divided into two parts. One dealt with themes on;

- Volunteering
- Personal development
- Leadership
- Positive lifestyle.

The intention was to build their capacity and make them think about the themes presented.

The second part was employment oriented and focussed on enhancing understanding of the work environment and provided practical support and covered topics such as producing CVs, completing application forms, job searches and interview skills.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PLANS

Community Support Planning is an initiative of Lancashire County Council led by Salvere CIC.

PMF as an approved member of consortia is involved in developing person centered support plan of clients referred by Social Services with a view to meeting their social care needs.

Over the last 12 months we have developed support plans for 48 people and this work is on-going.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

Preston Muslim Forum continued to host Lancashire Adult College to deliver ESOL and Citizenship classes for people facing language barriers, 15 women benefitted from the training provided and secured qualifications.

HAMAARA CENTRE

Our community venue was well used by local groups, police, city council, colleges for meetings, consultation, courses, youth activities, training etc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012-2013

Income	£
Donations and Gifts	5,234
Grants	32,909
Room Hire	4,741
Sundry receipts	6,760
Total Income	£49,644
Total Expenditure	£36,619

WAY FORWARD 2014- 2015

- To build on the good practice from ESF project and deliver meaningful employment support initiatives in partnership with the Job Centre plus.
- To enhance community participation in the area of neighbourhood issues, cohesion and empowerment.
- To develop services for elderly people in terms of their lower level needs, especially exploring luncheon club.
- To increase usage of Hamaara Centre in partnership with external organisations.
- To develop the organisation's capacity in the areas of tendering and commissioning.

THANK YOU TO PARTNER AGENCIES

