



## THIFF Meeting

Tuesday 12 September 2017

6-8pm, Account3, 3 Birkbeck St, Bethnal Green

### Attendees

**Present:** Alan Green – St John on Bethnal Green (Chair); Jan McHarry – London Buddhist Centre; Iqbal Raakin – London Borough of Tower Hamlets; Daniel Range – Coventry University; Tom Fisher – Coventry University; Elspeth Paisley – Faith Action; Ingrid Cruickshank – Metropolitan Police; Shay Miah – Metropolitan Police; Elvis Langley – Tower Hamlets CVS; Tasha Critchlow – Barts Health NHS Trust; Christine Hall – St John on Bethnal Green; Bernadette Hegarty – St Paul’s Church, Bow Common and Aimee Summers – St Paul’s Church, Bow Common

**Apologies:** John Hayes & Cameron Kirkwood - TH Methodist Church; Jack Gilbert; Sonya Seir - Th Bahai; Sigrid Wener - United Reformed Church; Peter McGeary - St Mary, Cable Street; Ram Chandra Sahra - Vivekanada Human Centre and Yunus Dudhwala - Barts Health Chaplaincy

### Welcome – Alan Green, Chair

Previous copies of [last meeting’s minutes and actions](#) were circulated via the mailing list. Following the presentation on a Suicide Prevention Strategy by Dr Hannah Emmett, faith communities are invited to contribute their views by contacting her via email: [Hannah.Emmett@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Emmett@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

### Agenda Items:

1. **Dan & Tom: Coventry University – Technique of theory of change and conclusions of day.** CTPSR work with organisations to make a greater impact in what they do. Helping to identify what THIFF are doing and why, what is successful and what the outcomes are. Aim to improve the work of THIFF

Steering group have been able to reflect on the journey so far.

Draft theory of change available for comments – does it reflect THIFF’s work?

ToC presentation is in a format that is available online and can be embedded in websites etc.

**Q posed to steering group: What is the aim of THIFF?** A: Making TH a better place to live and work. Fluffy statement – but has been broken down into five areas of activity. These are shown at the bottom of the presentation (to be sent around by CU)

5 groups (see presentation for details): Interfaith advocacy & leadership; partnership support and collaborative action; events & dialogue; awareness raising; Internal development, communication and promotion.

Each of the five activities leads on to ‘a change’ –these discovered through identified outcomes which lead on one from another. These are measurable and lead to 2 larger overarching aims. For example, the overarching aim for the first two groups comes as a result of the six outcomes over the

first two activities. The activities towards the bottom of the diagram are more measurable. The further towards the top, the fluffier the outcomes and harder to measure.

- **ACTION: A draft theory of change is the result. Open to input and adjustment before final version produced.**

*Points raised in response to presentation:*

- Grammatical and spelling errors to be corrected.
- Concern about the words 'growth networks'. There's a critical mass in terms of numbers of people attending the meeting. There's a sweet point where the meeting is able to be effective. But grow too large and sub groups may be more effective. Growth doesn't necessarily mean in size. A better word may be 'develop'.
- Growing represented by numbers at the moment. Also needs to be in breadth of representation.
- All faiths and beliefs may be better than all faiths and none.
- What are the measures for each activity/outcome? This is a starting point. Indicators at the bottom are about numbers of people. Higher up the chart has to be a survey approach – go out and talk to people and discover whether attitudes have changed.
- Forum not expected to collect 20 data measures. Next step is for CU to meet with the steering group to discover what data has/is already being collected.
- Qualitative data is important. Is there an inbuilt quarterly annual/quarterly survey?

Alan pleasantly surprised by the life that theory of change can bring. Very worthwhile!

Gives people something that helps them to understand what THIFF is all about. Gives some structure and aids strategy and gives clear targets to aim at so that actions become more effective.

## 2. Tasha: Barts Hospital Trust Chaplain – spiritual care and engagement with local faith communities

July – Spiritual care day. Overwhelmed by the response from NHS staff and wider community (over 70 attendees)

Tremendous support from faiths to get involved in the hospital.

Barts is part of largest health trust – 5 different hospitals – this was served for time by one chaplain, but now has a small team.

Spiritual care day promoted in work of the hospital, Chaplains are mediators between the different faiths and ideas.

Want to involve members of community in volunteering opportunities in hospital. Will run 3 induction days on October 10-12 (*see promotional leaflet handed out at meeting*). Will aim to run these annually in May and October.

- **ACTION: Looking for assistance from THIFF to make the chaplaincy services better. Input welcome.**

*Points raised in response:*

- Q: In Jewish community a chaplain may be a Rabbi or in another stream there are Jewish hospital visitors who are not 'official' ministers of religion. A: Within the hospital chaplaincy there are ordained ministers, or a chaplaincy volunteer. The volunteers may be either ordained or good listeners.

- Q: IS there much contact with police officers at the hospital? A: Not from the PO's , but the nurses will often refer as a result of a conversation with the POs
- Q: What is the process to become a volunteer? What is the support afterwards? A: Talk to Tasha, they would need some experience in pastoral work and are teachable. There is a simulation after the three-day programme to assess whether a person has aptitude. They do a debrief after the day. Two study days a year for the volunteers. Tasha & the team always available to talk.
- Q: IS the process quicker than it was? Used to be a year? A: Hope it would be more like 3 months now that DBS is faster.

Alan: [Mental health and first aid \(light\) course](#). Ekramul Hoque, Community Education Provider Network – further training with health professionals and working with wider community. Light course is 2-3 hours. Beginning to engage with issues of mental health – how to deal with and respond to issues.

Alan - looking to put something together for people in faith institutions who take the leadership and pastoral roles in faith communities. Ekramul looking at addressing specific issues faced by people of faith and faith communities taking place on:

*Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30 – 1pm. There is a cost, but may be a budget*

### 3. Ingrid - Police: Hate crime analysis and regular report

4 documents – 2 graph data sets

1<sup>st</sup>: Total incidents in last 14 days = 20, victims 21

12-week data set. Big data spike in august: may relate to the Northumbria hate crime being highly publicised. The Asian/Bangladeshi population had been involved and this may have resulted in the spike. Large Asian/Bengali population in TH

Sanction Detection (SD) rate: 23.9% for racist crime. TH slightly (1.5%) better than wider data

12 weeks: Spike in August. SD rate lower than the MPS. Good news - across year, 3.5% higher than MPS than a whole.

Still work to be done, but overall a positive picture

Anti-Semitic hate crime: 1 in last 14 days; in last 12 weeks, most days none. Total of 5 in 3 months. Not too bad.

12-month anti-Semitic: mini spike around 9/10 august again. Q over why – not clear.

Islamophobic hate crime over 14 days: just 1

12 weeks: nothing out of kilter with MET

12-month chart: significantly higher than MET as a whole – good news, TH are 5% higher on SDs

***Restricted hate crime stats must be handed back at the end of the meeting***

Bi-borough chart: TH 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for racist hate crime in MET. TH attracts attention because of the ethnic/cultural/faith mix in the borough

Faith hate: TH – 4<sup>th</sup> highest in London for faith hate.

Islamophobic hate crime: 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in London

Anti-Semitic hate crime: 7<sup>th</sup> highest in London

All above explained by the demographics of the borough

Dashboard: further data is being collected that will better inform the dashboard in the future. Will build in info about repeat offenders/locations.

Data provided at THIFF will be sanitised, but will be useful and can be manipulated in accordance with what is required, but won't breach data protection etc. Hope that the future will allow for more detailed questions to be asked. This will be in phase 3 – partnership – aiming for Spring. Currently in phase 1.

- **ACTION: Requests for functionality can be presented to Ingrid.**

*Points raised in response to presentation:*

- Q: Do you think the media is at fault for misrepresentation of facts? A: Difficult. Media puts a spin to suit their readers and editorship. Bigger issue is social media – completely unregulated. Can generate fear. No basis in fact – this is where the real issue lies. Social media can skew facts. And can narrow perspective. Police try to put out truth on their platforms.
- Q: are other faiths included? A: Other faiths are included in 'faith' – just measure the ones mentioned. No reason for other faiths not to be included but it hasn't been asked for
- Q: Data on hate crime offenders in TH? Where do they live? A: To do that you need to catch them to find out where they are from. Lower level verbal abuse – chances of catching slim. Sufficient volume is questionable in order to gain data.
- Q: Big overlap between faith and race hate crime – how do you deal with it? A: There will be double counting because of the way that data is collected. Also down to perception of victim. Social media: sent out to the partnership – vital to get the message out. Faith leaders weren't aware of the recent acid attacks. Public meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm, at The Osmani Centre, Underwood Road about the acid attacks – very broad representation. London Mayor etc there. CST: advised antisemitic posters had been placed by a couple of the synagogues. May have been linked to Charlottesville incident in USA. Increased patrols as a result.

#### 4. Elspeth: Social Media presentation – see notes and PPT

No notes – note taker was presenting

#### 5. Tracy: Development of physical activity and sports strategy in TH

Lots of planned activity and engagement with partners and community orgs in TH. Discovering barriers, wishes, hopes etc

TH wants to increase physical activity in the borough. Not just sport, but to help people 'move' in general. Want the conversation to be broader than sport.

Want people to gain the benefits of being physically active. Levels of activity in TH very low.

Strategy will include current data review.

- **ACTION: Tracy would like to know what faith communities need/want/what barriers to participation/issues are. All feedback welcome (send to Tracy.Stanley@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**

*Points raised in response to presentation:*

- Q: issue of facilities for older people. A: Are places welcoming or perceived as welcoming? Would be better if the literature was more embracing of all 'types' Comment: It's very difficult to find out what's available in the borough.
- Q: Taster sessions for all?
- 'East End Life' used to focus on all the different types of activities and community in the locality – we've lost this.
- Need a replacement to easily find information. There's an online e-paper, but needs higher profile.
- Costs are also prohibitive – if can't find a group it can be embarrassing.

## 6. AOB

### Additional agenda item – Bernd Halschka

Tower Hamlets LGBT Community Forum are launching a TH LGBT Allies programme on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 10-11.30am at St Pauls. Find out how faith communities can support the LGBT community and promote a more inclusive community.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 21 November, 6pm – 8pm, venue TBC**