| **Meeting Minutes** |
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| **Location:** | Bow School, 44 Twelvetrees Crescent, E3 3QW |
| **Date:** | Monday 28 January 2019 |
| **Time:** | 6pm – 8pm  **Attendees:** Alan Green, Leon Silver, Jan McHarry, Jaber Khan, Owen Warren, Alice Sielle, Samantha Ming, Lydia Warren, Aytac Necati, Maryam Rouf, Sigrid Werner, Nandaraja Adewumi and Jenny Hadgraft  **Apologies:** Ram Chandra Saha, Barbara Hume, John Hayes, Fiona Stewart-Darling, Sonya Sier. |

## **Welcome – Alan Green, Chair**

## **Shared Lives – Presentation from Maryam Rouf, Tower Hamlets Council**

Please see the [Power Point](file:///C:\Users\jennyhadgraft\Desktop\Shared%20Lives%20Presntion%20TH%20Council.pptx) presentation for full information.

**Summary**

Shared Lives Tower Hamlets (SL) is a new initiative that will be launched this year to help support adults with learning disabilities. SL is an alternative approach to traditional day opportunities, respite and long term living arrangements. SL provides person centered, family based care for individuals, provided by people in the local community. It meets the aims of the Council’s overall strategy of “Living well in Tower Hamlets – The Adult Learning Disability Strategy.” The scheme will offer long term, respite and day time support.

Anyone can be a SL carer, but they need to have certain qualities; to be caring and positive, willing to adapt and learn and to be committed to helping adults with learning disabilities to live the lives they would choose for themselves. People applying to be long term or respite carers would also need to have a spare room.

At the moment, the project is taking shape and gaining momentum – Maryam is busy raising awareness of Shared Lives, recruiting SL carers and registering with the CQC. Other boroughs have their own Shared Lives schemes that are running extremely well and are beneficial for both the service user and the carer. All carers are given a high level of training and ongoing support, as well as being paid for their role. Carers are matched to service users by personality and interests.

Feedback from other boroughs shows that many SL carers come from a faith based background, so Maryam and the Council would like to raise awareness of the scheme within faith communities, and hope that people will also get involved in the planning of the project.

*Q – Can you describe long term care?*

A – Long term care means that the person is ‘placed to live’ with an SL carer full time, however the person will probably spend most daytimes at day centers or college. In time, the person will become part of the family.

*Q – What level of disability will the person have?*

A – This is varied; the person may have a low level of disability or very high. Additional training would be given to the carer in these situations. If the person needed 2:1 caring, then they wouldn’t be eligible for the SL scheme.

*Q – Are there any case studies?*

A – It would be great to share some case studies from other borough’s – great feedback.

*Q- Is there a minimum amount of time that someone can be a carer? If a lot of training is given it would be a shame for it to be wasted.*

A – That is a risk, but worth taking as the assessment process should highlight any doubts on the carers part before full training is given.

For more information or enquiries, please contact Maryam Rouf on 0207 7715 521 or [Maryam.rouf@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Maryam.rouf@towerhamlets.gov.uk).

## **Hate crime analysis and regular report - MET Police**

Detective Inspector Necati reported on the latest faith hate crime data:

Anti-Semitic: 131 offences across the whole Metropolitan Police Service.

1 offence reported in Tower Hamlets.

When compared to the same time period twelve months ago, there has

been a slight reduction in offences.

Islamophobia: 199 offences across the whole Metropolitan Police Service.

22 offences reported in Tower Hamlets.

When compared to the same time period twelve months ago, there has been a slight increase of 9 offences.

Central East Basic Command Unit will be recruiting a Hate Crime Officer that will specifically deal with crimes such as faith hate and disability hate and so on.

*Faith Hate Incident at Central Foundation Girls School*: Alan Green noted that there was an incident at the school that involved Muslim girls being filmed on a mobile phone, with the perpetrator commentating the film with abusive language about girls and faith. The video was then put onto the internet. There was a silent protest at the school grounds today and DI Necati confirmed that the investigation was still ongoing and moving in the right direction.

## **Hate Crime Champions**

Samantha Ming and Lydia Warren of BartsAbility highlighted the great work being done by No Place for Hate. No Place for Hate hopes to raise awareness of hate crimes within the community and empower people to report them. Samantha explained that to become a champion, you attend a four-day course that is run by Tower Hamlets Council – this helps you learn about the different types of hate crime and how to report them. You then sign a pledge to commit to combatting prejudice, reaching out to targets of hate and promote respect for all people in the borough. More information can be found [here](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/News_events/2018/June_2018/Pledge_that_Tower_Hamlets_is_no_place_for_hate.aspx).

Alan Green pointed out that there is a lack of knowledge over how to report hate crimes and sadly some victims feel that the hate is normal because they become so used to it. There is also a sense of authorities not taking the reports seriously. Learnings are forgotten very quickly and must continue to be reinforced – this is done very effectively by real life people i.e. Hate Crime Champions.

DI Necati stated that under reporting of such crimes is a big issue and extended reassurance that all reports are taken seriously.

## **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Leon Silver spoke on the annual Holocaust Memorial event at the synagogue, which featured various of speakers of differing faiths including: THIFF’s own members Reverend Alan Green and Jan McHarry and Ram Chandra Saha. The Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs also attended.

The theme was ‘Torn from Home’, reflecting on the effects of communities being wrenched from their homes due to the threat or act of genocide. Attendees from the forum that were at the event commended Leon for his fantastic efforts to put on such a moving event – noting that a very difficult topic to broach was brilliantly done and spoken about with passion.

Leon extended his thanks to Alison Denning from Tower Hamlets Council for her assistance too, as well as Jan McHarry and Sigrid Werner.

## **General Information**

Muslims Against Anti-Semitism event, 29th January – 6-7.30pm at JW3 341-351 Finchley Road, NW3 6ET. Muslim and Jewish people standing together in remembering the Holocaust.

One Creation will be performing at Southwark Cathedral in 2020. Artists attempt to provide a multimedia response to extremism. Forum attendee Alice Sielle’s artwork will be projected behind the performers and the team are also busy fund raising at the moment. [Here](file:///C:\Users\jennyhadgraft\Desktop\Info%20sheet%20One%20Creation%202019.pdf) is more information.

Visit my Mosque day, various places in the borough including East London Mosque and Darulummah Centre, 3rd March 2019 – see [here](http://www.visitmymosque.org/) for details.

20th anniversary of Brick Lan Bombing – Commemoration event on Wednesday 24th April – more information will be shared when available.

Tower Hamlets Fair Trade Group has its fair trade fortnight from 25th February to 10th March, this year focusing on the producers of fair trade products. The group will also look at the treatment of women, effects of climate change and how many fair trade products are produced in Bangladesh, where many garment workers are harassed and even killed. More information will be shared soon on the campaign ‘Behind the Label’.

St John on Bethnal Green is hosting the Grand Union Orchestra, a community based core of professional musicians who unite people through their music – highlighting the remarkable demographic and cultures of the area. The orchestra will be performing on 1st and 15th of February, 1st and 15th of March and the 1st of April. More details can be found [here](http://www.stjohnonbethnalgreen.org/?p=1881168).

London Buddhist Centre has various outreach events, they can be seen [here.](https://www.lbc.org.uk/)

## **AOB**

The forum would like each meeting for 2019 to be themed and encourage discussion as to what topics they would like to highlight or explore. Opinions on whether the forum meetings should be held on Mondays or Tuesdays are also welcomed, as are suggestions for venues – the forum are keen on holding each meeting at different venues all around the borough.

On a separate note, there was discussion about the borough’s PREVENT scheme, which focuses on radicalisation and safeguarding. More information can be found on PREVENT [here](http://www.faithintowerhamlets.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/simon-smith-prevent-presentation-20180610.pdf), taken from our forum meeting in July 2018.

The next proposed forum meeting date is Monday 25th March 2019 – but this is subject to change.