

‘We recognise that we need to be ahead of the game and VISIBLE will help’

Faith Based VISIBLE is underway:

Seven faith based organisations met with their appointed mentors at Community Matters on 26th May for an intensive training day to enable them to begin work on the VISIBLE quality standard.



By the end of the day we were friends, happy and raring to go...

‘We share common values’

The seven projects represent a spread of faith groups from across the country. They include Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Christian groups and a multifaith organisation. They are drawn from rural and urban settings stretching from the North West to far South West. Their mentors are Faith Based Regeneration Network special advisers appointed for their experience of working with faith based groups, their knowledge of organisational processes and their understanding of quality standards.



‘I am excited about doing VISIBLE’



During the day, organised and led by Community Matters staff, participants shared their own excitement about VISIBLE, had hands-on experience of the on-line work book, discussed how best to demonstrate their faith values and learned a huge amount about each others projects. A very good working relationship was established among the whole group. It was agreed that the day had been an excellent launch into the VISIBLE programme. By the end of the day all the groups had

become members of Community Matters and were able to sign up to their own VISIBLE work book thanks to our partnership with the Church Urban Fund.

‘VISIBLE is a way forward’



The pilot project gives faith based organisations the opportunity to trail VISIBLE. VISIBLE is a quality standard produced for and by the local community under the ownership of Community Matters. The standard takes seven key themes against which a community organisation can assess its delivery, thus a VISIBLE community organisation will be one that demonstrates:

- a **VOICE** to represent issues of local concern
- an **INDEPENDENT** and Politically neutral organisation
- a **SERVICE** provider for local people
- an **INITIATOR** of projects to meet locally identified need
- a **BUILDER** of partnerships with other local organisations and groups
- a strong **LOCAL** network of people and organisations
- a way to **ENGAGE** local people to become active in their communities

Faith based organisations do all these things, but are not always good at demonstrating them in such a way as to inform local funders or service providers. The pilot project has the task of enabling faith based organisations to do just this, and of identifying where the current version of VISIBLE can be improved to make it accessible for faith based projects.



The project runs for 18 months. Regular reports will feature on the Faith Based Regeneration Network website and be sent to the project partners: Community Matters, Faith and Civil Society Unit Goldsmith’s College University of London, Church Urban Fund.



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