



Report 2020/21

10th Anniversary Edition



**NEAR
NEIGHBOURS**
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Our vision and values.

Near Neighbours focuses on social integration, working in partnership with others in some of the most religiously and socially diverse areas in England, to build stronger, cohesive communities in which people of all backgrounds can belong, connect and contribute.

We are a registered charity (established in 2011), funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), and the Church Urban Fund, aiming to bring people together across diverse religious and ethnic communities.

WE DO THIS BY FACILITATING **THREE MAIN OUTCOMES:**

Positive encounters:

Breaking down barriers by connecting people, where communities have been separated by mistrust and prejudice.



Resilient relationships:

Developing and sustaining mutual understanding and support between different and diverse communities.



Active civil society:

Structures, activities, and spaces that engage people in working together and strengthening their community.



We place a strong emphasis on building trust, connecting people, providing opportunities for people to participate in their communities, and developing leaders in the context of a diverse society.

This is achieved through a range of projects, delivered through our 11 regional hubs.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY **FOUR MAIN STRANDS** TO OUR NEAR NEIGHBOURS WORK:

1 Near Neighbours Hubs:

Building diverse and resilient relational networks amongst faith and community groups, and equipping leaders for effective collaboration and community engagement.

2 Near Neighbours Small Grants:

Bringing people together to improve their community through local projects that involve people of different faiths and ethnicities.

3 Catalyst:

A leadership programme training young people from diverse backgrounds to be leaders and influencers in a multi-ethnic, multi-faith society and in their local communities.

4 Real People, Honest Talk:

Creating safe spaces to address difficult local issues relating to diversity, through facilitated community-based conversations.

We also support **Places of Welcome**, a network of comfortable, safe places where anyone can go for conversation, free refreshments and activities, and local connections.

Introduction.



This has been a very difficult year for many community groups and leaders: a global pandemic that killed so many people has forced all of us to change our way of living and working.

The restrictions of lockdown, plus the added caring responsibilities and personal griefs that have also resulted, have greatly reduced people's capacity to meet and come together for the benefit of their community. Yet the need for communities has significantly increased as people have suffered isolation, anxiety and financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.

Throughout this time, Near Neighbours has continued to work in close partnership with faith and community leaders and community groups, supporting them to adjust, continue and grow their important work. Our coordinators have focused on facilitating local COVID-response work, supporting community leaders to respond to issues and uncertainties arising from the pandemic, helping small groups and organisations to secure grants, continuing to develop their partnerships and local networks, and running online events and training sessions in response to local needs and opportunities.

Despite the limitations on social activities, it has been amazing to see so many local organisations, community groups and faith institutions rise to the challenge and continue to provide not only vital services, like food and medicine distribution, but also human support and companionship to many people, via phone calls, online meetings, and socially distanced events.

For us at Near Neighbours, this difficult year has been a confirmation of the solid foundations that we have built in our local areas and of the real connections and partnership that our coordinators continue to foster and support.

As we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our organisation, we can say that the seeds that we have planted in these ten years have developed strong roots and grown vigorous branches.

At the same time, the pandemic has revealed systemic inequalities and huge challenges for many communities, and brought a greater awareness that we must all work together across difference, adapting and renewing our tools to respond to the after-effects of the pandemic in our communities.

Some of the innovative responses that we have created during the lockdown, like the Diverting to Digital course, have already become part of our regular offer to groups and organisations.

With the same passion and dedication that we have put in our work in the last 10 years, we will continue to support our local partners to deliver their valuable projects and build stronger and united communities.

Elizabeth Carnelley

“For us at Near Neighbours, this difficult year has been a confirmation of the solid foundations that we have built in our local areas and of the real connections and partnership that our coordinators continue to foster and support.”

NB: Since Near Neighbours work on a financial year, all data and statistics for last year cover the period April 2020 to March 2021.

Hubs.

Near Neighbours has **11 local hubs** in some of the most religiously and socially diverse areas of England.

In each hub a Near Neighbours co-ordinator facilitates partnerships, links people together, and provides opportunities for training, encounters and honest conversations between community organisations, faith groups and local activists.



LANCASHIRE



Including: Hyndburn, Rossendale, Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley and Pendle

Coordinator: Nudrat Mughal

In partnership with: Building Bridges Burnley

Total number of grants since 2011: 130

Total amount awarded since 2014: £372,334.78

GREATER MANCHESTER



Including: Manchester, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham

Coordinator: Samra Kanwal

In partnership with: Greater Together Manchester

Total number of grants since 2011: 219

Total amount awarded since 2011: £692,713.45

WEST YORKSHIRE



Including: Bradford, Leeds, Keighley and Dewsbury

Coordinator: Kaneez Khan

In partnership with: Wellsprings Together

Total number of grants since 2011: 349

Total amount awarded since 2011: £1,147,911.94

NOTTINGHAM



Until 2020 with Leicester

Coordinator: Lindsay Cressey

In partnership with: Transforming Notts Together

Total number of grants since 2014: 152

Total amount awarded since 2014: £505,916.60

LEICESTER



Until 2020 with Nottingham

Coordinator: Beth Henwood

In partnership with: St Philip's Centre

Total number of grants since 2011: 180

Total amount awarded since 2011: £480,333.15

BIRMINGHAM



Coordinator: Rabiya K Latif

In partnership with: Thrive Together Birmingham

Total number of grants since 2011: 362

Total amount awarded since 2011: £1,135,129.20

BLACK COUNTRY



Including: Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley

Coordinator: Shaz Akhtar

In partnership with: Transforming Communities Together

Total number of grants since 2014: 253

Total amount awarded since 2014: £712,917.73

PETERBOROUGH



Coordinator: Femi Olosoko
In partnership with: Peterborough Cathedral
Total number of grants since 2019: 43
Total amount awarded since 2019: £102,351.11

LUTON



Coordinator: David Jonathan (Johny)
In partnership with: Grassroots
Total number of grants since 2011: 233
Total amount awarded since 2011: £716,737.68

WEST LONDON



Coordinator: Elizabeth Fewkes
In partnership with: King's Centre
Total number of grants since 2014: 233
Total amount awarded since 2014: £672,599.39

EAST LONDON



Coordinator: Marzena Cichon-Balcerowicz
In partnership with: The Centre for Theology & Community
Total number of grants since 2011: 389
Total amount awarded since 2011: £1,238,514.22



Hubs and leadership events.

In the financial year 2020–2021, Near Neighbours' eleven local hubs and coordinators have been active in building interfaith partnerships, strengthening community leadership, and feeding into wider integration initiatives. This work has been more important than ever given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, its particular impact on Black, Asian and UK Ethnic Minority communities, and the isolation people have experienced.

Given the lockdown restrictions, much of the work carried out by our coordinators has focused on helping small community groups in their COVID-19 response work and also in adapting their activities to move online where possible.

Our hubs have worked in partnership and built relationships with a variety of organisations, including churches, mosques, synagogues, other places of worship, voluntary sector organisations, statutory agencies, and schools and colleges. Some of the projects that have been delivered through these partnerships include supporting community leaders after the pandemic (Birmingham), webinars to raise awareness of the importance of people getting their COVID-19 vaccinations (Black Country), helping groups adjust their activities and run them online (East London), working with the local NHS to encourage faith institutions to host vaccination centres (Greater Manchester), and resolving tensions with faith leaders about hospital visits (Luton).



Across our hubs, a total of **472** new partnerships were initiated over the whole year.

THIS YEAR, NEAR NEIGHBOURS HAS...

mobilised a total of **1,564** volunteers

...including **377** new volunteers

and has facilitated a total of **46,713** volunteer hours



Hubs and leadership events.

Leadership Training.

A total of 163 leadership training events were held by Near Neighbours over this last year, 98 of which (67%) directly challenged intolerance and extremism.

One of these leadership events was held in Wolverhampton, where the local Near Neighbours coordinator chaired an event which brought together Manchester Police, Manchester Metropolitan University, Gender Equality and others to raise awareness of local gender-based violence. Similarly, East London held a justice and leadership programme for young Pentecostal leaders, in connection with a leadership course which supports young Muslim leaders.

Across those events, 58% of participants were women and 29% were young people – exceeding our targets in both areas (respectively 50% and 25%).

Data from our participant surveys revealed the following outcomes for people who attended NN leadership events across the year:

- 46% said “I learned something new about a culture or religion different to mine”.
- 34% said “I had a conversation with someone of a different ethnicity or faith that I didn’t already know”.
- 52% said “I feel more confident that I can make a difference in my community”.

These are positive indicators of learning, conversation, and growth in confidence.

Data from our participant surveys showed that participants made much deeper relationships and there was a much deeper impact in terms of confidence than the “general” leadership events.

- 96% of participants said they ‘had a conversation with somebody from a different faith’ that they didn’t already know.
- 100% stated that they ‘had a conversation with somebody from a different ethnicity’ that they didn’t already know.
- 100% also agreed that the training ‘equipped them to take action to improve their community’.

Leadership for Effective Change.

The Leadership for Effective Change programme that was piloted in the last quarter was a six week online programme teaching community leadership skills.

It was developed to respond to the challenge of creating deeper relationships while activities were held online, and to equip local people and organisations to address local issues, building the capacity of local communities in areas of socio-economic disadvantage and low civic engagement.

A total of 36 people participated in this pilot over six weeks in three areas (Manchester, Nottingham and West London). 75% of the participants were from ethnic minority backgrounds, representing 10 different ethnic groups. 88.89% were female and 66.67% had never attended a leadership course before.

10 YEARS OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Cumulative Figures

Total partnerships created:

1,804

Total volunteers mobilised:

12,689

Total leadership events organised:

1,952

Total leadership participants:

90,251

Since the year 2016 (where data is available)

Small Grants.

Near Neighbours' **small grants scheme** is now well-known as one of the most successful programmes to provide seed funding for small local groups and organisations.

The scheme awards grants up to £5,000 to groups that are working together across different faiths and backgrounds for the benefit of the local community.

We support projects which:

- **Bring together people** of two or more different faiths and/or ethnicities, to build friendships and develop relationships of trust.
- **Work locally**, enabling people from the same street, estate or neighbourhood to come together.
- **Work sustainably**, nurturing long term relationships that will last beyond the period of funding.
- **Work to improve the community**, making it a better place to live.
- **Involve people from more than one faith group or ethnicity** in planning the project and making it happen.

Funded projects span from gardening activities for elderly people to ethnic cooking classes, and include workshops and seminars about discrimination, events featuring different musical cultures, and multi-ethnic football clubs.

In 2020-21 we awarded a total of **£243,049** to **122 projects** (exceeding our target of 90 recipients). The average grant is **£1,992**. The number of individuals directly engaged through the grants programme this year is **14,030**.

Furthermore, the average turnaround time for a grant application was just nine days, meaning we more than achieved our target of reducing the turnaround time from three weeks to two weeks.

10 YEARS OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Over the last 10 years we have disbursed

2,550 grants

to a total of **£7,952,459**



Grants have been awarded across all five themes of the programme:



Solving divisions & tensions



Promoting connectedness



Working with marginalised women & girls



Working with vulnerable young people



Combating loneliness

10 years in pictures.



2011

Near Neighbours launches. Baroness Margaret Eaton (left) is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.



The Young Leader Training Programme Catalyst, a 4-day residential for 16 to 26 year-olds was launched.



Baroness Warsi dancing during a visit to one of our projects.



2012

The first Small Grant was given to a project by St Stephen's Church and the Madni Masjid in West Bowling, Bradford. A collaboration and friendship that continues...



2013

Archbishop Justin Welby meeting a local group at Lambeth Palace.



2014

We have been promoting connections between different faith communities - Christian Muslim Forum Church-Mosque twinning.



2015

In 2014/15 we expanded our activities from 4 to 9 areas.

Near Neighbours has helped communities to stay strong and resilient through a complex and often divisive decade, but there have been plenty of joys to share too. From Archbishop Welby to Baroness Warsi, from Lord Bourne to Her Majesty the Queen, several distinguished visitors have come to our activities and events, listening to and learning from our participants. We have also brought together communities to share in food and companionship as well as address tensions and troubles.



Real People, Honest Talk helping local people to have meaningful conversations about difficult issues – the first small conversation in Smethwick.



In 2018 we opened a new hub in Peterborough.



Our 1000th grant was given to the Peace Garden and Community Allotment at All Saints Church in Luton.



Lord Bourne visiting Lozells Methodist Church.



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visiting our projects in Bradford.

2018



When community tension emerged, we were there to help and facilitate mutual understanding – Westminster Bridge attack.

2019



Her Majesty the Queen meeting a group of women at Buckingham Palace who were involved in Near Neighbours' projects.

2020



During the COVID-19 pandemic, we activated our networks, mobilised volunteers, and connected local organisations with health services to support some of the communities hardest-hit by the virus.

2021

2016

2017



Real People, Honest Talk.

Real People, Honest Talk is an initiative that aims to create safe spaces to discuss difficult issues about how to live together well. The programme involves a series of three facilitated small group discussions involving people from a local neighbourhood where there are differences in culture, attitudes, and beliefs. The goal of this programme is to lead to a deeper understanding and empathy between groups or individuals, and to provide opportunities for groups to identify actions they can take to respond to difficult issues facing their communities.

The neighbourhood conversations are followed up by a larger event, or 'Big Conversation', at the city or regional level. This provides an opportunity for participants in the local conversations to share their experiences and plans, and for a wider group, including local community and faith leaders, and statutory services such as the police and political representatives, to share in the process.

After the success of the initiative in Luton and the Black Country in 2017, we extended the programme to four local areas in 2018/19 (Blackburn with Darwen, Bradford, Luton, and Walsall), and to all our hubs in 2019-20 (with four hubs running the programme twice in different areas).

In 2020-21, given the difficulties of meeting in person, we decided to cancel Real People, Honest Talk for that year. The main aim of the programme is to create a safe space for discussion, encourage connections and build relationships amongst the participants, and we deemed this to be very difficult to achieve via on-line meetings. We have now restarted the programme in Birmingham and Nottingham, since we are able to meet in person again (although with COVID safety measures in place).

Participants in Real People, Honest Talk have often continued working together afterwards. Projects arising out of the Conversations include a community play session, community theatre production, litter picking outings, developing a website to address sexual abuse, and a group of women from different communities working together to address drug dealing in their neighbourhood.

10 YEARS OF BRINGING
PEOPLE TOGETHER

Over the past years 3
years, more than

2,200
people

took part in 230 'Small
Conversations' and
others joined in the 19
'Big Conversations'...



...Reaching a total of
more than

2,600
people
overall.



Stories of Hope.

Since we decided to cancel Real People, Honest Talk, we organised a series of online events called “Stories of Hope”, to give local faith and community leader the opportunity to talk about their experiences of living through the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this has had on their communities.

In total, we brought over 120 local leaders and activists together, showing the appetite and need for such discussions. The issues raised were honest and touching: mental health, domestic violence, the opening of places of worship, food insecurity, and pre-existing inequalities. Participants valued having a space where they could be heard, find others who had been struggling as they had, and replenish their energies to continue providing support to others. For all the pain that we heard, there were also powerful and energising stories of hope that participants brought to the conversation.

One participant reminded us of an Old English word ‘respair’, meaning the return of hope after a period of despair. This truly captured the mood of these workshops.

CASE STUDY

Somali Bravanese Centre

On the night of 5th June 2013, an arson attack destroyed the Somali Bravanese Islamic Centre in Muswell Hill. The police suspected the attack was racially motivated, allegedly committed by the far-right group English Defence League in the wake of the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich a few weeks earlier.

The attack sparked a heart-warming show of solidarity from local residents and other faith groups and organisations in the area. They came together to address one of the immediate needs of the Somali Bravanese community, which was the celebration of Iftar (breaking of the fast at the end of the day during the month of Ramadan), involving community prayers and a communal meal.

The Finchley Reform Synagogue offered temporary accommodation for Ramadan prayers and Iftar celebrations, and the Synagogue applied for a small grant from Near Neighbours to provide the food and necessary equipment for the Bravanese community.

It was the first time that Ramadan prayers were said in the Synagogue and that kosher food was served at Iftar. It was also the beginning of a strong relationship between members of the two communities which grew over time and still exists today.

For many years, rooms for after-school Bravanese clubs were made available at Finchley Reform Synagogue, and members of the two communities started creating friendships and connections, feeling that the persecution and discrimination experienced by people from the small city of Brava in Somalia has similarities with the suffering the Jewish people have faced over the centuries.

Six years after the fire, with the generous support from many friends from different parts of the local community, the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association has opened a brand new building. This will always be a concrete testimony to the bonds and solidarity between people of different faiths, which started with a small Near Neighbours grant.

Catalyst.

Aimed at young people aged 16–26, **Catalyst** is a leadership programme with a difference: it focuses on equipping young people for leadership in our diverse society, with the participants themselves reflecting that diversity. The course empowers and equips young people from a wide range of religious, ethnic, and social backgrounds to be leaders and influencers in their communities, workplaces and in wider society.

Catalyst is developed around four modules



Identity, faith and belonging



Exploring leadership



Media and effective communication



Social action and positive change

The course enables young people to develop a positive sense of identity; to talk openly about their beliefs and values; to gain valuable life skills; and to begin to recognize their own potential to make a positive difference as they work together on learning activities and social action projects.

Despite the national lockdown, we were able to run one Catalyst programme for young leaders in 2020-21, held in the Somali Bravanese Community Centre (see previous page). This was held in the summer of 2020 and included 15 participants.



10 YEARS OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



Since 2011, we have organised

79

Catalyst Courses,
attended by
1,261 students.

The majority of participants were from **Black, Asian, and UK Minority Ethnic groups,** and seven different religions, including people of no particular faith, were represented.

CASE STUDY

By Ghar Se Ghar in Luton

In 2012 I was involved in leading a few Circle Dancing groups in Luton. Circle dancing is a mixture of traditional folk dancing from places such as Greece and The Balkan countries, together with contemporary choreographies, set to a wide range of music from across the world. It is very adaptable, being almost raucous at one end of the scale, quiet and meditative at the other end, and with everything else in between. It is very suited to use in community events, with people dancing together in a circle and no partners needed as in other forms of dance. You can comfortably come on your own and be included from the outset.

It was good having regulars come to the dance sessions, but we felt that we wanted to reach out to the diverse communities of Luton and give them the chance to experience this lovely activity. Near Neighbours funding helped us to be able to do just that. We worked with a women's co-operative and were involved with dance workshops in different parts of the town with a wide range of people from different faiths and cultures. Some sessions were specifically for women only, but a few were mixed. An event for International Peace Day was a highlight, with a collection of dances to celebrate peace.



The longer-term picture has been that Circle Dancing has continued to be a regular part of the activities of the groups that initially experienced it through the Near Neighbours grant, particularly for special events. Also, the idea of taking it out to the community has led to Circle Dancing taking place in all sorts of places with all sorts of people: churches, away days, harvest festivals, youth groups, elderly and disabled groups, schools, well-being days, dance festival, conferences, asylum seekers and refugees, summer solstice with climate change groups, dementia and carers groups, an 80th birthday party, Jo Cox's Great Get Together Day 2018 and another commemorative event in 2020.

So Near Neighbours, thank you for the support and encouragement to reach out and take Circle Dancing to the wider community. It has gone a great deal further than we thought possible!

COVID-19 has, of course, temporarily halted dance gatherings, but dances have been sent out on WhatsApp and Zoom dance sessions have been a feature of the wider dance network. Hopefully, it will not be long until we can resume some happy days of dancing together.

Community Champions.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government developed a **Community Champions** scheme to enhance existing communication strategies among a target group of councils and to fund work with grassroots advocates from affected communities. The aims of this scheme were to improve public health communication with hard-to-reach groups; to dispel myths, reduce fear, and build confidence among ethnic minorities.

Near Neighbours proposed a 'surge' of high-impact activities as part of this Community Champions scheme. This Surge programme would engage organisations that were already active in a community and had high levels of local goodwill and, through the complementary elements of the Near Neighbours programme, support them to better respond to local issues.

All these activities have made an incredibly valuable contribution to communities still struggling with the impacts of the pandemic. They have helped to dispel myths and reduce fear around vaccinations, and to build confidence among ethnic minorities in their own and their community's ability to recover from this crisis.

Near Neighbours and its partners have delivered an astonishing volume of activities through this Surge programme and have far exceeded most targets set across the different areas of the programme.

In four months,
we mobilised

459
volunteers

...and reached
out to

763
community organisations.

We worked with women's groups, faith groups, community groups, organised befriending groups, and seeded conversations about the support and resources available.



We granted additional small and medium-size grants to support online events, tackle mental health, and promote health messages.

We awarded

162
small grants

...and

7
mid-size grants.

We designed and delivered 12 Ripple Effect courses to equip 165 young people to become agents of change for themselves and their communities, and promoted 14 COVID Cash courses, helping community organisations provide information and resources that would help their community recover from money issues created or worsened by the pandemic. These courses were held in a wide range of languages, including English, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Polish, Romanian and Mandarin.

We also produced an evolving series of communication materials in a variety of languages and media, to promote public health messages, raise awareness about the vaccine, dispel negative myths surrounding it, and support the vaccination uptake among more hesitant communities.

Passion and commitment from our hubs, our partners and volunteers made a huge impact on engaging with under-represented, isolated and "hard to reach" communities with little trust in public bodies. We achieved our aims and established many new partnerships with diverse organisations which we will build upon and develop going forward. The capacity we have built through this programme will be sustained long after it has ended, as there is a legacy to follow on from and an opportunity to further extend our reach and impact.

Our Impact.

Near Neighbours has succeeded in involving religious and lay leaders of different faiths in local social action, interfaith encounters, and the development of new networks. Importantly, Near Neighbours has provided an opportunity to gain religious literacy; address through interfaith cooperation issues that cross different faiths but have become associated with a particular faith; and, at the same time, offer a positive and visible contribution from a particular congregation to the wider community.

Near Neighbours Evaluation report by the Woolf Institute, 2016



The level of autonomy delegated to local actors in the Programme is strikingly different from the Coventry University team's experience of relatively top down and often state led approaches used to grow social cohesion in the past. From the outside, Near Neighbours could seem to resemble a straight forward national grant scheme; the team's experience, however, has shown that the critical roles, skills and networks of the local coordinators – who are provided with a useful level of autonomy and have a first rate understanding of the local area – , as well as the interplay between the various national specialists, enhances the significance of the Programme hugely, helping to boost the impact of grants and build sustainable community networks within neighbourhoods.

An Evaluative Framework for Near Neighbours by Coventry University 2016



The Programme's successes in creating meaningful relationships, breaking down barriers between faiths and cultures and preparing leaders has been shown to ultimately increase levels of involvement in social action; more young people take a more active role in enhancing their local areas and communities as a result of attending Catalyst. Against a national backdrop of community tensions and calls for an enhanced role for faith-based actors in tackling social issues, this is an important and timely intervention in the present and future of our communities, faith-based or otherwise.

Catalyst Evaluation by Coventry University 2016



It is clear that the relationships being developed through small grants are helping to generate trust, dispel myths, and reduce barriers between people from different ethnic and faith backgrounds. Not only does this have an immediate impact in helping people develop links across cultural and faith boundaries, it is also providing individuals with the security to have potentially challenging and honest conversations. As a result, many people have felt able to discuss their feelings with, and ask questions to, other communities after potentially divisive events such as terror attacks. There is some evidence that in doing so, they have better understood the communities involved and have been able to challenge prejudiced views in their homes and schools.

Impact Evaluation by Brap, 2019

Without the infrastructure to sustain and support it, social action bubbles up but pops easily. The work of Near Neighbours during the COVID-19 pandemic provided firm foundations for faith-based community action by resourcing new initiatives, connecting existing ones, and enabling leaders to thrive.

Restoring Social Confidence by Common Vision 2021

Near Neighbours is run by a board of trustees, whose role is to oversee the programme and govern the organisation by establishing its policies and objectives, and ensuring the legal duties of the charity, its finances and operations, are carried out properly.



Sue Chalkley
OBE, FCIH
(Chair)



Rev Cate Allison



Rev Canon Dr Malcolm Brown



Rev Jessica Foster



The Very Revd Rogers M Govender



Katie Hodgkinson



Rev Dr Richard Sudworth



Rachel Whittington

The Faiths Advisory Panel.

The Faiths Advisory Panel acts in an advisory capacity to our programme.

They ensure that in planning and delivering our activities we have access to the particular experience, perspectives and expertise of individuals from the main religious communities of the Near Neighbours programme areas.

Imam Qari Asim
Muslim

Navdeep Singh
Sikh

Rabbi Nicky Liss
Jewish

Sanjay Jagatia
Hindu

Sarwat Tasneem
Muslim

Darcy Biddulph
Buddhist

Rev. Richard Sudworth
Christian

Muna Chauhan
Hindu

Dan Bacall
Jewish

Manchandan Kaur Sandu
Sikh

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Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

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