



Council for
Christian Muslim
Relations

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**Meeting of CCMR held on 24th June 2014
at Bucks New University**

Minutes

Apologies: John Bajina, Simon Cronk, Jackie Lock, John Richey, Ghayas Siddiqui, Jeff Singleton

Attendees: Chaudry Shafique, Laurence Smy, Greg Livingstone, Raja Khan, Shahid Alehzar, John Parry, M Raja, Riaz Ahmed, Rana Safraz, Sajid Ali, Zafar Iqbal, S Tameez, Naheem Bashir, Praveen Lyanage, Daniel Sullivan, Mark Macauley, Tony Dickinson, Tony King, David Snoxell, Hugh Ellis, Anne Bowker, Katy Simmons

1. Minutes of the April 30 meeting deferred
2. Report from Think Tank Meeting of 18 June

Radicalisation

Jeff Singleton, Prevent Officer reported that Mrs Sally Evans, who featured in the national press begging her son now fighting jihad in Somalia to come home, would probably come to a future meeting. He had converted to Islam. He had attended WISE, as had all of those later convicted of terrorist offences from High Wycombe, but it was when he left that mosque that he was radicalised.

Usama Hasan, Quilliam Foundation, had reported on the polarities within British Islam. Mosques ranged from

- liberal – to - socially conservative
- inclusivist - to – exclusivist
- socially cohesive–to – socially separatist
- quietist – to – politicised

- peaceful– to – militant and violent

When a mosque was consistently on the extreme right of these continua it would attract converts (reverts) and those who would try to take them elsewhere for teaching and training.

It was clear that there was a great need for pastoral support for vulnerable young Muslims and converts especially when they no longer attended WISE. One member commented “it’s not the people who come to the mosques, but the alienated job-less youth in the street gangs who are radicalized”.

It was suggested that there be a conference or standing committee of the Wycombe mosques which could help provide and monitor this pastoral need.

Jeff Singleton had offered to describe the Channel system of mentoring at a future meeting

3. The Trojan Horse controversy in Birmingham

The chairman introduced this topic on which the guest, Katy Simmons, the Chairman of Governors of Cressex School, was to speak

Katy described her visits Park View School one of the schools in questions and the visit of the Chairman of Governors of that school to Cressex. The press had blown up the issue as two rival ministers in government had briefed against each other. Park View School was judged excellent by OFSTED and then suddenly described as a failing school. What seemed to have happened was that by serving the needs of the Muslim majority in the school (85%) the school had been regarded as exclusivist. Tim Brighouse, formerly Director of Education for Birmingham had published a balanced appraisal of the situation in the Guardian. The situation had been exacerbated by the withdrawal of many schools from local authority control and the inability of the Department for Education to take up the responsibility for and support that schools (and Academies) needed.

A speaker from the Muslim Parents’ Association suggested that if children and young people were not made to feel that they belonged to British society than they would seek their own “community” from a different source and become prey to radicalisers

4. Date of next meeting fixed for 25th September and the Think Tank arranged for that date would need to be re-scheduled

LS

27.06.14