

# Muslim Community Organisation

Empowering The Local Community For A Brighter Future



## Funding for Communities of Identity.

Nottingham City Council are to change the way in which they fund Nottingham's Communities of Identity.

The Council's focus is on where people come together because they share one or more of the protected characteristics detailed in the Equality Act 2010 i.e. gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation and race and religion or belief. The Muslim Community Organisation Nottingham's (MCON) funding falls within the latter categories.

The Council's vision for this

funding is to improve equality of access to the funding, and to create a more cohesive city. Outcomes from the funding fall within three broad themes: information, advice, and guidance, building skills and confidence, and physical and virtual space which community members value, enjoy, and feel a sense of belonging.

To be able to apply for this funding MCON will need to work together with other community organisations to deliver specific outcomes under the three broad themes. MCON will need to show how within the three broad themes,

it will continue to enable small community groups and individual community members to participate in the organisation and delivery of services. MCON with its partner organisations will need to apply for funding by 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013, and will know by December 2013 whether it will have funding from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

We will keep you informed of our progress with this funding application and others to enable MCON to continue to provide services which meet community priorities.

## Education, Employment and Training Skills Gap Research Update

The first part of the research looking into the skills gaps around Education, Employment and Training in the local area is now complete.

A team of volunteers took part in the face to face consultation in the form of a questionnaire. The questionnaires were completed in public locations such as libraries, shopping areas and outside school gates during June and July 2013.

The data captured from this

research has been processed and now we are working towards holding the Focus Groups sessions during the first two weeks of October.

The Focus Group sessions aim to gather more in depth, qualitative research to obtain perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes on skills gap in a range of settings including Community Centres, Schools and Youth Centres.

MCON are looking for further

volunteers to facilitate the focus group session.

We are particularly keen to hear from volunteers who are confident listeners and have the ability to take detailed notes.

If you are interested in becoming involved with this part of the research then please contact Nadeem Haider on: 0115 941 7865 or email at: [nadeem.haider@mcon.org.uk](mailto:nadeem.haider@mcon.org.uk)

### MCON's Youth Project

#### **BOYS GROUP**

Following the Woolwich murders we were told that we need to have a heightened awareness of the issues that may cause further conflict amongst the community. MCON youth workers have met with Nottinghamshire Police PREVENT team with the aim of providing our young people relevant up to date information and to address any concerns that they may have as law abiding citizens.

Earlier in the year MCON youth staff were involved with the New Art Exchange and Nottingham's young faith communities with artists Tasawar Bashir and David Sillitoe looking at the role that faith plays within an art context. The 12 young people put a number of photographs together which is being bound into a book that has already been shown at an open day at the New Arts Exchange building.

Our cycle project at Wheelbase is still ongoing and the partnership is working well even though the senior youth work we were working with is no longer there. This template is now being emulated by other youth projects in our area.

#### **GIRLS GROUP**

In previous newsletters we have spoken about the Desi Girls group, the group was a long standing commitment run by the Muslim Community Organisation meeting on a weekly basis and had on various occasions undertaken programs such as dance, self-defence and outdoor pursuits, recently they had requested sessions in a recording studio, as well as nail and a beauty workshop, but for various reasons the group diminished as members became less interested in what was on offer therefore we project closed the Desi Girls Group.

Following a recent conversation at an MCON team meeting it

was noted that William Booth School were looking to do something with their girls at the school therefore we were happy to talk with William Booth School who use MCON's premises extensively, with a proposal of a late afternoon afterschool club aimed exclusively at girls.

Mal has spoken with the school about us resurrecting our girls group and working in partnership with them. Mal meets the schools representative on a weekly basis. The session has been running for a number of weeks now and we have a group of girls who regularly attend plus we have a good mix of ethnicities.

The session runs from 3pm - 5pm on Wednesday's for further information contact either Nadeem Salim or Mal Metcalfe workers-in-charge at the Centre.

### Sports Development Officer

MCO are pleased to announce the appointment of **Alison Vaughan** as the Sports Development Officer (SDO). The post is a fixed term contract until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014,

SDO's main role will be to manage, develop, co-ordinate, and deliver sporting projects and activities for children and young people, and adults; increasing opportunities for participation and inclusion in sports.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities of the Sports Development Officer will include:

To identify sporting needs within the city-wide Muslim community and the diverse local community of the Dales Wards. To develop and manage a sports and activity programme at the Beaumont Street Centre.

To develop and co-ordinate sports leadership and

community sports training courses.

Alison will be based at the MCON Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 4pm and on Thursday from 9am to 4.30pm. For further information please call 0115 9417865 or email:

**alison.vaughan@mcon.org.uk**

## **Welfare Rights Update**

### **Emergency Hardship Support Scheme**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans schemes no longer exist. Nottingham City Council has a new Emergency Hardship Support scheme. This scheme is split into 2 parts:

1. Emergency Support: for people who need critical short term financial help
2. Household Support: for people who need help; to establish or maintain independent living in the community, support will be in the form of essential household goods.

There are certain eligibility criteria for both types of support including:

Aged 16 or over — Currently resident in Nottingham. In receipt of benefits such as Income Support — Job Seeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Guaranteed Pension Credit. You also need to provide proof of need. You can access the service by completing an online application at the Nottingham City Council website or by calling **0115 8765001**

### **Emergency Loans**

If you are not able to obtain Emergency Hardship Support you may qualify for an Emergency Loan from the Nottingham Credit Union. For this type of help:

You must be over 18 years old — Currently resident in Nottingham — In receipt of in work benefits — Are in crisis with no other means of support. If you are eligible the council will refer you to Nottingham Credit Union, for further information call 0115 8765001.

### **Going back to employment or training?**

When you start work you may be able to claim **Working Tax Credits** to top up low pay. When you start work you can carry on receiving Housing benefit for **four** weeks if you were in receipt of certain benefits e.g. income based Job Seeker's Allowance. In order to find out how starting work will affect your benefits please contact our advice line for information

### **Equipment and support at work**

If you decide to work there are certain programmes available to help you including:

**Access to work** can help pay for equipment and cover disability related costs.

**The Work programme** - provides support to overcome barriers that prevent people finding and staying in work. The Work Programme provides activities like voluntary work, training and work trials. **Work Choice** - Provides job support for disabled people who face more complex barriers to finding and keeping work

### **Trying out a job**

**Benefit linking rules** - Linking rules can help you to reclaim benefit without losing out after a trial period at work. **Work trials** - Allow you to remain in receipt of benefit for up to 30 days while you and the employer see if you are suitable for the job.

If you need any information about how your training course or employment will affect you please call the Welfare Rights Service, we can provide a benefit check to see how you will be affected by the change. You can access our service by: Telephone: **0115 9151355** from 8:30 am to 4:50 pm

**Monday to Friday** to help resolve your query *or* to arrange an appointment

Website [www.mynottingham.gov.uk/welfarerights](http://www.mynottingham.gov.uk/welfarerights) email [welfarerights@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:welfarerights@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### **ESOL Classes starting soon at MCO Centre!**

With the support of Central College Nottingham and Begin we will be holding some ESOL classes at MCON Centre. There will be support

with crèche. These classes will be starting from 17th September 2013 and continue every Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 12:00

noon. Enrolments will be taking place at MCON Centre on the 17th September. If interested please contact Noushin Agahi at 0115 9417865.

### **MCO Summer Play Scheme- 12th-23rd August 2013**

With the support received from Comic Relief, we were successful to deliver two weeks of multi-sports, arts and crafts activities to children aged 5-11.

The first week focused on a cricket programme and 17 children completed the camp which had been planned over 5 days. Everyone was awarded with a certificate and a small gift.

The second week was more diverse and provided arts and crafts as well as multi-sports.

The week ended with a day trip to Skegness and 53 children and their parents visited the seaside. The total attendance over the second week was 157.

We had a lot of new children from many different

backgrounds taking part and everyone enjoyed the week.

We would like to thank all the volunteers, coaches and staff who helped out with these activities.

**The next play scheme coming up will be on Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd, and Wednesday 23rd October 2013.**



### **MCO has a new website! - [www.mcon.org.uk](http://www.mcon.org.uk)**

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new and improved website:

[www.mcon.org.uk](http://www.mcon.org.uk)

As well as looking great, our new website is easy to use and packed full of new features. Please take a look around the site and be sure to check for the latest news and events happening at MCON. If you wish to add a link to your web site

please contact us at;

[info@mcon.org.uk](mailto:info@mcon.org.uk)

As well as improving our website, MCO also has new contact details for all our staff:

#### **Noushin Agahi**

MCO Centre Co-ordinator  
Working hours: 9am to 2pm  
Monday to Friday.  
[noushin.agahi@mcon.org.uk](mailto:noushin.agahi@mcon.org.uk)

#### **Alison Vaughan**

Sports Development Officer  
Working hours: Tuesday/  
Wednesday: 9am to 4pm and  
Thursday: 9am to 4.30pm  
[alison.vaughan@mcon.org.uk](mailto:alison.vaughan@mcon.org.uk)

#### **Philip Haynes**

Youth Co-ordinator  
Working hours: 2.30 pm – 8.30pm  
Wednesday, Thursday and  
Friday  
[philip.haynes@mcon.org.uk](mailto:philip.haynes@mcon.org.uk)

#### **Nadeem Haider**

Community Development  
Worker  
Working hours: 9am to 5pm  
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday  
[nadeem.haider@mcon.org.uk](mailto:nadeem.haider@mcon.org.uk)

Check out our  
new website

[www.mcon.org.uk](http://www.mcon.org.uk)

### **MCO Room Hire**

We would like to remind our readers that MCON Centre as well as offering activities also offers rooms for hire. We have an excellent sports hall as well as a large room with kitchen facilities. Suitable for all functions and also all facilities offer disable access. The Centre also offers free car parking facilities to its users. We offer special rates to organisations who affiliate to us. For more information on rates of hire or to make a booking please contact us at MCON Centre.

**To find out more about MCON or any of these activities please contact us:**

By phone: (0115) 9417865 or email: [info@mcon.org.uk](mailto:info@mcon.org.uk)

Visit us: MCON Centre, Jinnah Building, Beaumont Street, Sneinton, Nottingham, NG2 4PJ

(We are near the Sneinton Health Centre and formerly known as Project Pehchan)