

**NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE 17 MARCH 2016**

**UPDATE REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR SHAFIQUE SHAH**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

Following my report to Scrutiny in November 2015 setting out my portfolio priorities for 2015/16, this report seeks to provide an update on the progress made and emerging issues.

**2. SUMMARY OF KEY PRIORITIES AND OTHER KEY PROGRAMMES**

The key priorities for my portfolio support the Council's vision for the city working together for a fair, prosperous and democratic city.

This includes the opportunity for everyone to live in thriving local communities, where people make the most of their talents and abilities, regardless of their background. Where communities value and respect one another and are able to make a contribution to public life and where people are safe, especially the most vulnerable – from crime, violence and abuse.

- Work with partners to develop a set of actions to be taken forward by the Council and its partners to address child poverty across the city, to ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- Adopt the Road Safety Strategy to make the city's roads safer.
- Support the development of a city-wide advice offer through the establishment of a coherent advice strategy and integration of advice services across the Council and with partners.
- Develop a city-wide comprehensive and sustainable approach to keeping victims and children safe from domestic violence.
- Provide an effective response to the refugee crisis, including a shared city-wide approach to housing fifty Syrian refugees through a nationally-organised and nationally-supported resettlement scheme.
- Developing a new affordable model for CCTV in the city.
- Completing the review of school crossing sites, to increase the safety of children travelling to and from schools

### 3. PROGRESS ON DELIVERING PRIORITIES

PRIORITY	PROGRESS
Work with partners to address child poverty across the city	<p>The Child Poverty Commission was established last May to examine the extent and impact of child poverty and inequality across Birmingham; identify the key challenges and issues; and report on causes and solutions.</p> <p>The Commission, chaired by Matthew Reed (CEO, Children's Society) is made up of senior leaders in all spheres of influence including policy makers, politicians, business representatives and practitioners who will provide expertise, knowledge and experience to help formulate proposals for a citywide approach.</p> <p>Given the diversity and complexity of child poverty the Commission is looking at 6 key themes on which to develop further understanding and propose actions. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local economy and unemployment</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Education and lifelong learning</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• In work poverty: child care, Living Wage</li> <li>• Housing</li> </ul> <p>Over several months a series of engagement sessions to gather evidence have taken place with over 280 people sharing their experiences, views and ideas through social media, focus groups and meetings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus group with young people from Lozells, Aston and Longbridge district.</li> <li>• Focus group with parents from Balsall Heath Children's Centre and Summerfield Children's Centre.</li> <li>• Pupils from Future First Independent School (alternative education provider) based in Hockley.</li> <li>• Meetings with voluntary and community organisations working with children and families e.g. Supporting People Domestic Violence Forum, KIKIT, Aspire and Succeed, Gateway Family service.</li> <li>• Meetings with voluntary and faith based organisations supporting vulnerable children and families hosted by Safe Families for Children.</li> <li>• Funding event with voluntary and community organisations working with children and families from Ladywood hosted by Big Lottery.</li> <li>• Business leaders meeting hosted by Aston University</li> </ul>

	<p>Further research has been commissioned to build on the above including one to one interviews and further focus groups. Quantitative surveys and stakeholder events are planned over the coming months.</p> <p>Initial findings reveal an appetite for young people and parents to be part of the design and delivery of solutions that will help improve their life chances.</p> <p>A young people's group is being established to work alongside the Commission to provide a sounding board to sense check ideas and recommendations, discuss and contribute to shaping policy and practice to alleviate child poverty in Birmingham. The membership will be made up of around 10 young people from a range of gender, ethnic and socio economic backgrounds from across the city.</p> <p>The Commission will publish the final report in June 2016 which will then be discussed at Full Council and disseminated more widely.</p>
Adopt the Road Safety Strategy	<p>In Birmingham there has been a 35% reduction in road casualties over the past ten years. To ensure progress against this positive trend continues, and to support the wider of objectives of Birmingham Connected, a new Road Safety Strategy is being developed. The Strategy sets-out how the Council will tackle road safety, under the themes of: Safer Roads (making the physical environment safer); Safer People (promoting and educating people about how to use the roads safely); and Safer Vehicles (ensuring that the vehicles using the roads are as safe as possible e.g. through design etc.) It also forecasts a 40% reduction by 2020, in the number of people being killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the city.</p> <p>The draft strategy was developed in partnership with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Consultation on the draft took place between July and November, and 224 responses were received from a range of organisations and individuals. Further work is now ongoing to take on board the feedback received with the intention to publish the final strategy this summer.</p> <p>A new Birmingham Road Safety Partnership, which I chair, has been established. Work with partners, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Centro and private and third sector organisations, is underway to better align the Council's Road Safety Strategy Action Plan with the work of our partners.</p>
Support the	We have worked with our third sector advice partners who have

development of a city-wide advice offer	<p>led on the development of an advice strategy which has been adopted through our partnership groups. The re-commissioning of third sector advice on welfare benefits and debt has the advice strategy at its core. The £400k of advice services being procured will commence on 1 April 2016 and will offer a partnership approach to advice as well as the ability to access advice through the phone and web. The new model for Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service which has been under consultation also builds on the principles of the advice strategy and a decision on this will be brought to Cabinet in March.</p>
Domestic Violence Review	<p>The Violence Against Women and Children Steering Group will consider the final elements of the domestic abuse review by the end of March and rigorous debate has already taken place in respect of how to manage and contain abusers more effectively and the nature of services needed for children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. These views will be reflected in the development of a commissioning plan and thorough consultation will be conducted on any proposals it contains.</p> <p>Commissioning activity in this area will now be undertaken by the Commissioning Centre of Excellence. This will include extensive engagement with existing and former experts by experience (service users) and providers and other stakeholder partners to canvass opinion on what works well and what needs to change. Current domestic violence and abuse services will also be included in a service effectiveness review. A draft strategy refresh and forward commissioning plan will be produced by the end of June and commissioning activity will commence once these are finalised and approved by Members.</p> <p>An update on progress will be presented to this Committee in April.</p>
Provide an effective response to the refugee crisis	<p>An announcement was made on the 7 September that the UK would resettle 20,000 people from Syria through a joint scheme with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme. The Government have split the scheme into two phases. Phase 1 ran between September and December and sought to resettle 1,000 people. Birmingham participated in this phase and agreed to accommodate 50 individuals. Birmingham City Council along with Coventry City Council were the only authorities in the West Midlands participating in this early phase.</p> <p>We have been working with a consortium of organisations which is being led by Refugee Action to provide orientation, accommodation and support services for 12 months from arrival</p>

	<p>for 50 Syrian refugees.</p> <p>Nine individuals arrived before Christmas, 19 in January and a further 10 individuals arrived on 24 February. We anticipate that the final group of refugees will arrive later this month. All individuals have settled in and there have been no concerns raised.</p> <p>Refugee Action and the Council are working in partnership with the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DWP – to ensure benefits are applied for and accessed within a timely manner</li> <li>• CCGs – ensuring that all individuals are registered with a GP and receive an initial health screen</li> <li>• BCC School Admissions to ensure that school aged children are allocated a primary or secondary placement</li> <li>• Prevent leads within WMP and BCC to ensure relevant partners and key workers are aware of the Prevent Agenda and where referrals or concerns can be made.</li> <li>• A number of voluntary sector organisations to provide befriending, orientation and ongoing support.</li> </ul> <p>I met with individuals and refugee families earlier this month together with the Leader of the Council and provided a warm welcome to Birmingham. The meeting provided an opportunity to talk in an informal setting about their experiences in the city since their arrival.</p> <p>On 25 February the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership held a briefing session looking at progress of the Syrian Resettlement Scheme to date and phase 2 which looks at a much more coordinated regional approach. I met with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Home Office, local authority chief executives, commissioners, leaders and portfolio holders in the West Midlands region. Birmingham were thanked for their early participation in the scheme and the Government are now seeking for other West Midlands authorities to also play a part in this next phase.</p> <p>As a Board Member of the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership I am keen to ensure that Birmingham plays its part in supporting the refugees and the dispersal of asylum seekers, however I also want to ensure that we have the right services and support in place in order to manage migration in a responsible way.</p> <p>We will continue to work with the Home Office and the West</p>
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	<p>Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership to ensure the continuing success of the scheme both locally and in the region.</p>
<p>Develop a new affordable model for CCTV in the city</p>	<p>Birmingham has a public realm CCTV establishment of almost 350 cameras. Of these 69 are monitored by the Police and we monitor the others through our Control Room. We are committed to reducing the number of cameras by 51, and that work is programmed to be complete by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Planned savings of £379,000 are to be made from the CCTV budgets from the 1 April 2016 and this requires the reduction in Control Room staff of 11 posts. I am pleased that this has been completed without the need for compulsory redundancies.</p> <p>The reduction in staff numbers will mean that the average manning level in the Control Room will be less and this has made it necessary to invest in some new equipment to ensure that we are working as effectively as possible with the staffing available. The procurement of this new equipment is planned for the end of March 2016.</p> <p>This means that by 1 April we should be in a position where we will have a reduced CCTV establishment, a reduced staffing level and a more efficient and effective monitoring regime. This will be able to operate within the projected budgets available and will therefore be affordable.</p> <p>The range of possible future developments in CCTV is wide as the technology is rapidly changing. In addition, there are radical changes to the way that key stakeholders are organised taking place with the Police and Centro changing their organisational bases, and the role of the West Midlands Combined Authority as yet undefined in relation to CCTV.</p> <p>In such a situation it is advisable to retain flexibility in our approach and to be open to joint working with other stakeholders.</p> <p>We have been working with Police and Centro colleagues and other partners regarding potential partnership opportunities going forward in relation to the monitoring and hosting of CCTV cameras in the city.</p> <p>Since my attendance at Scrutiny in November I have visited the City Council's control room and Centro's CCTV Suite and have been impressed and reassured by the determination and hard work shown to keep this city safe.</p> <p>Future developments with new technology will all present challenges, and possibly solutions to existing problems. By</p>

	<p>keeping our service as small as it effectively can be, and working more closely with our partners we can be in the best possible position to exploit new technology as it becomes available.</p> <p>The future direction and governance of the service cannot be predicted but will be actively managed; working where possible in partnership with the Police and Centro.</p>
Completing the review of school crossing sites	<p>Following the recent budget process, we have confirmed that during the year the Council will continue to recruit to vacant posts at Priority 1 sites not equipped with pedestrian controlled lights.</p> <p>I will be working with my Cabinet colleagues to find a longer-term solution to road safety travel for young people in the city.</p> <p>The Young Active Travel initiative is designed to improve the health and well-being of our children and local communities, by encouraging parents and pupils to adopt more sustainable ways of travelling to school and reducing car journeys.</p> <p>There are a wealth of measures already in place and planned, to make it safer, easier and more pleasant for children to walk or cycle to school, improving not only their own health but that of the wider community - with reduced road danger, less air pollution from cars and less traffic congestion in local neighbourhoods. This proactive approach with young people will not only address current health and transport issues but it will also influence future transport choices and further our Birmingham Connected transport strategy - "the kids of today are the commuters of tomorrow".</p> <p>We are looking for schools to take the lead with support from parents, Ward Councillors, and partners such as the Police and Fire Service, to review their School Travel Plans through the ModeShift STARS online platform, and are particularly keen for children themselves to consider the issues and develop their own solutions appropriate to their neighbourhood. The Council will support this initiative by developing a "toolkit" to bring together in one easily accessible place all the available information, statistics, contacts and "good ideas" including, for example, child obesity and asthma rates, cycling and walking route maps, school travel plans, and road safety education resources. We will also promote the idea to school governors, Councillors, and partners; and host a School Council Summit to launch the work.</p>

#### 4. UPDATE ON KEY BUDGET ISSUES/KEY FUTURE BUDGET ISSUES

I am responsible as the Cabinet Member for a net revenue budget of £3.7m in 2015/16 (representing gross expenditure of £8.7m that is funded partly from grants/other income of £5m). These resources are utilised to provide a significant range of services including the Council's Equalities/Cohesion/Community Safety Team, our work on the Preventing Violent Extremism, public CCTV, Birmingham Police and Crime Partnership, Neighbourhood Advice Services and Third Sector Advice Services.

There is considerable pressure to deliver these savings within the existing resources and it is likely that there will be a marginal overspend in 2015/16 (estimated at 2% of all expenditure and income resources).

The public finances will continue to be under pressure over the medium term from 2016/17 to 2019/20 (as set out in the Council's Public Budget Consultation in December 2015 and the Budget Report to City Council in March 2016). It is estimated that current available resources will reduce by almost £1.4m by 2019/20 including the planned reductions in the Community Safety Fund allocated by the Police and Crime Commissioner. This challenge will only be deliverable through the continued joint partnership working with all our stakeholders.

## 5. NEXT SIX MONTHS

I feel that much work has been done to deliver on the priorities I outlined to Committee in November. Over the next 6 months I am committed to work with Members, staff and partners across the city to ensure that we continue to keep Birmingham safe and continue to support the most vulnerable people in the city through the following:

### PREVENT

In July 2015, through the Counter Terrorism and Security (CTS) ACT 2015 the Government introduced a new duty on specified authorities including the police, local authorities, prisons, schools and universities, to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. By introducing the duty the Government intends to increase the consistency of Prevent delivery across England, Wales and Scotland.

In Response to the Duty we have reviewed and strengthened governance arrangements to ensure the Local Authority complies with the duty and involves our partners in the implementation and oversight of the Prevent programme across the city.

- **Risk Assessment.** Birmingham remains a key priority nationally for Prevent and the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) produced by the WM CTU has been briefed to Members and partnership delivery structures.
- **Delivery Plan.** Birmingham's Prevent Delivery Plan is influenced by the CTLP which identifies the risks and vulnerabilities of radicalisation in Birmingham. It is a partnership plan and is coordinated via the Prevent Delivery Hub and overseen by the CONTEST Board and CONTEST Executive Board.

Delivery against the delivery plan for 2015 has been completed and where actions are ongoing they will be incorporated into the plan for 2016/17.



We have initiated a review of safeguarding processes and referral pathways for Prevent and will in time for 2016/17 have strengthened referral pathways for vulnerable children and adults.

Following the CTLP briefings the Plan for 2016/17 is being drafted and consulted upon by partners. We aim to significantly reduce the number of actions by making the plan more targeted and effective to key priorities.

- **No Platform Policy.** As part of the Prevent Duty, local authorities are expected to ensure public-owned venues are not used as a platform to promote extremist views. Local authorities are also expected to ensure funding is not allocated to groups/individuals that hold/promote extremist views.

Through the 'No Platform' Policy, we have introduced a process to prevent the use of local authority venues from providing a platform for extremist speakers. There are also established 'due diligence' systems in place to ensure groups that work with the Birmingham Prevent Programme do not hold, or engage with, extremist views or groups.

In September the No Platform Policy was rolled out to Schools in a format that they are comfortable with and Birmingham City Council will provide any additional support around due diligence where necessary.

- **Staff Training.** In ensuring front-line staff are aware of the risk of radicalisation the Birmingham Prevent programme oversees training through a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary workforce development team for Prevent led by the Schools Resilience Officer.

During 2015 we have delivered WRAP training to over 14,000 front-line staff and are moving into a train the trainer model for 2016/17 with a target to have over 200 WRAP trainers registered to deliver training from and to a range of sectors.

- **Collaboration between Areas.** Over the last six months, neighbouring local authorities have also recruited Prevent leads and we work very closely with other local areas in the West Midlands to ensure a consistent approach to delivery plans is promoted across the region.

We have assisted in helping to establish a West Midlands Prevent Coordinators Network to ensure emerging practice is shared.

- **Supporting Children.** Prevent is recognised within local safeguarding arrangements for children and work is being done to strengthen referral pathways. Birmingham receives additional support via the Home Office to recruit a Schools Prevent Officer who works to strengthen safeguarding arrangements within school settings and ensuring that these arrangements are linked to local authority processes.
- **Out of School Settings.** Via the Local Authority Designated Officer for safeguarding (LADO) Team. Birmingham has developed and strengthened support to faith based

organisations, supplementary schools and madrassas via a new safeguarding toolkit for such settings.

Local delivery in Birmingham is designed to be proportionate and targeted towards areas of most vulnerability and need whilst also ensuring city-wide coverage. Our delivery is focussed on enabling front line services to access updated information and receive appropriate support and guidance to ensure Prevent vulnerabilities are identified and accepted as key priorities within a broader safeguarding agenda.

## **TACKLING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

We have continued to work in partnership with the Police to tackle anti-social behaviour across the city and I know that many local councillors are actively engaged in supporting Public Space Protection Orders in their wards to tackle a range of issues that are affecting the day the day lives of residents. Actions since January this year include:

- Six injunctions obtained in January 2016. Two-year gang injunctions were obtained against three members of a family in Ladywood and another associate. Two other injunctions (one civil and one gang) were obtained against unnamed individuals at the same time. All of the individuals were involved in violence emanating from one household affecting the Ladywood area and are linked to one of the city's known gangs.
- Four Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were granted in Jan 2016 for four areas in the East of the City: Sheldon, Shard End, Gospel Farm (Acocks Green) and Bankside (near Springfield). The PSPOs will assist in tackling antisocial behaviour within these specific areas.
- West & Central & North PSPOs: A further three PSPOs were granted in February 2016 in the following areas: Erdington High Street, Rookery Road area (Handsworth), Soho Rd & Waverhill Rd area (Handsworth). These orders are been used to tackle a wide range of ASB including begging, graffiti, and inappropriate driving of mini-motos. These PSPOs are used under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and are intended to crackdown on several types of nuisance behaviour in a public area.
- 18 interim gang injunctions were obtained in February 2016 against gang members banning them from a large part of the West & Central area. The individuals are known to be linked to the recent gun crime issues and it is hoped that these injunctions will help disrupt their activities. Local communities had expressed concerns over recent incidents leading to the anonymised publicity of the injunctions

## **YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE**

The Birmingham Youth Offending Service was inspected by HM Inspectorate of Probation on behalf of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in January as part of a national programme of inspection of youth offending work with a specific focus on case management practice for statutory orders that have been open for six to three months.

The inspectors concluded that 'Overall, we found some work of good quality in the Youth Offending Service (YOS). Staff were well engaged with the children and young people under their supervision, and their parents, and were working effectively with other agencies involved with their cases. There was scope for improvement, particularly in the planning and review of the work to address the risk of harm to others and the safeguarding and vulnerability of the children and young people.'

The Inspector noted that Birmingham's performance in preventing reoffending had improved on the previous year, with the latest published rate of 30.7%, which is better than the national average of 37.9%

The Service is facing significant cuts to its 2016/17 pooled budget, which is currently estimated to be in the region of £1,000,000. The Youth Justice Grant has been cut year on year and was subject to an in-year reduction of 10.6% equating to a loss of £234,000. The grant settlement for next year is not known yet, however the YJB has recently advised YOTs to expect and plan for up to a 25% cut to the grant.

In view of the gravity of the cuts that the Youth offending Service is facing, the Youth Offending Service Management Board which I Chair, will be reviewing the operating model and oversee the mitigation planning in order to determine how it will continue to fulfil its statutory duties in the future.

## **STONEWALL INDEX**

The Council's efforts to become a better employer for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people have been recognised with another improved ranking in the latest Stonewall Top 100 Employers list in January.

The Council is 28th in the 2016 table - a leap of 31 places from last year's 59th and an improvement of 63 places from 2014. In our submission to Stonewall, the leading LGBT charity, a number of initiatives and projects supported by the local authority were outlined including:

- Work done to improve engagement with LGBT staff and citizens through events and communications developed by the Council's LGBT Employees & Allies Network.
- Striving to highlight positive LGBT role models, and encouraging 'Straight Allies' to take part in activities to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced within the community.
- Lunchtime events held in council buildings and circulation of the LGBT newsletters to all staff to raise awareness of key LGBT topics and events. These include Bi Visibility Day, LGBT History Month in February and taking part in the Birmingham Pride Parade.
- Working closely with voluntary sector partners like the Birmingham LGBT Centre to develop the services available there which include: TOPAZ (a service for Older LGBT people), the LGBT Domestic Violence Service and the new LGBT Sexual Health Service which launched in August 2015 in partnership with Umbrella.

- Supporting Out Central – a safe space for Younger LGBT people to meet and socialise every Thursday evening, funded through the city’s Youth Service.
- Working with Birmingham LGBT and Out Central on the Heritage Lottery Funded project “Coming Out Stories” – which included production of a film and a learning resource which will be promoted in schools this year to help younger people understand what it is like to ‘Come Out’ as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Looking ahead to 2017, Stonewall have started to include criteria to measure how inclusive organisations are of the trans community, so the Council plans to include full details of its work to support everyone from the LGBT community.

## **BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE CHARTER**

In December the Council signed up to the British Sign Language (BSL) Charter, after working with the British Deaf Association and the Birmingham Deaf Forum. The charter aims to improve equality of access to services and acts as a framework for local authorities and other public sector organisations to improve access for deaf people who use sign language.

The Charter has five pledges within it:

1. Improve access for Deaf people to local services and information
2. Promote learning and high quality teaching of British Sign Language
3. Support Deaf children and families
4. Ensure staff working with Deaf people can communicate effectively in British Sign language
5. Consult with our local Deaf community on a regular basis

We will work in partnership to deliver these pledges.

## **WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE**

The Welfare Reform Multi Agency Committee continues to bring together key partners to shape the city’s response to the government’s welfare reforms to ensure the most vulnerable are supported through the changes.

The Committee has successfully overseen the implementation of Universal Credit in the city and following a successful event with partners in November, a refreshed and more focused action plan has been developed to respond to the findings of a comprehensive assessment that highlighted all impacts of reforms at a household level across Birmingham.

This refreshed action plan has a strong focus on:

- Supporting vulnerable and young people
- Employment support opportunities: joint working underway between BCC and DWP to target some of the most affected Benefit Cap cases to help into work

- Communication and advice provision: linking to advice strategy – a standard framework of advice.

Welfare reforms that impact on housing will now be picked up under the 'Housing Birmingham' Multi Agency Committee. This committee will continue to work with partners including the DWP on roll out of future reforms including Benefit Cap and expansion of Universal Credit.

During the latter stages of 2015/16 I conducted detailed consultation on the Council's local welfare provision, both as part of the overall budget consultation and due to the potential impact of this proposed change with both directly affected claimants and partners from third sector agencies.

The consultation was very detailed and the responses have enabled Cabinet to consider the most appropriate approach for the city going forward.

Officers from many organisations across the city contributed to this feedback and a small group of partners will now continue this work and bring proposals to the Multi-Agency Committee to help inform the revised policy for 2016/17 onwards which will now see a much smaller reduction down to the level of current demand.

From 2017/18 onwards the Council has identified additional funding of £1.3 million and will also work with partners to seek extra funding to supplement this.

During 2015/16 the scheme has continued to support vulnerable citizens in Birmingham by providing assistance through crisis grants totalling £279,000 and community support grants of £1,982,138 and through these schemes have helped to alleviate both the immediate effects of poverty and assist in sustaining more longer-term tenancies across the city.

## **FINANCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP**

I currently chair Birmingham's Financial Inclusion Partnership which is a partnership of key partners and stakeholders working to improve financial inclusion in the city through a coordinated approach to debt recovery, access to financial service, prevention of problem debts and the provision of money advice. The aim is improve life chances of those who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing financial exclusion by:

- providing evidence to identify what services are available and examples of financial inclusion good practice
- identifying the shortfalls and work in partnership at a strategic level to promote financial inclusion
- embedding change through local strategies and partnerships

Some highlights of recent work include:

- **Affordable Credit.** FIP members, Money Line and Credit Unions, Illegal Money Lending team are working together and have secured a Community Shop in the Indoor Market to promote affordable credit for Birmingham. This will be going live in March 2016 and there will be an official launch.

- **Financial Education for Young People.** Free financial education aimed at young people from 5 to 19 to encourage money management and savings. Free education packs have been forwarded to schools.
- **Supporting families at Christmas.** FIP worked with Birmingham Markets to provide a Christmas fun day weekend for families at Christmas.

**House 2 Home.** Partners have been worked together to provide the House 2 Home project and events which provides education for tenants on managing and sustaining a tenancy including DIY skills, money advice, utility information etc.

We are now looking to expand the project so that more tenants across the city can benefit.

## **FAITH NETWORK**

We held our second Faith Network event last month, with over 50 Faith Networks attending. The event focussed on Keeping Children Safe in Birmingham, exploring the crucial role that faith communities play.

The Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board also highlighted the availability of specialist safeguarding support, on-line procedures and multi-agency training available, professionals working with children and families in the community. The Board will work with faith leaders to build on the learning from this event to develop a programme of future safeguarding events.

A series of launch events for the faith community are planned for the spring across the city.

Councillor Shafique Shah

Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety