

# Why get involved?

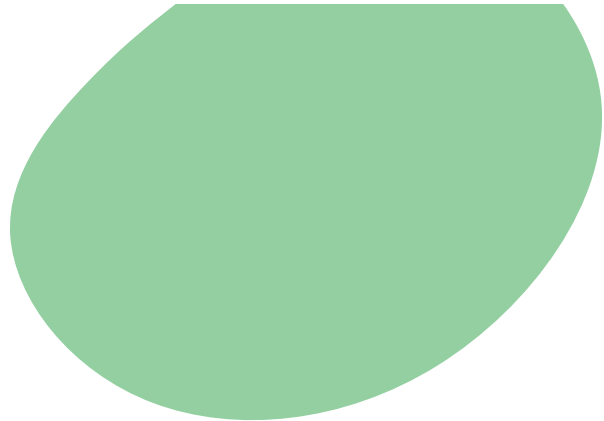
Faith communities have always been at the heart of serving local needs. Recent crises have made this apparent to all. Our local authorities have signalled their desire to collaborate closely with faith groups to identify and reach communities, and co-design and deliver solutions to community needs.

If any of the following apply to you and your faith community, please consider getting involved:

- You feel passionate about decisions being made in your community and would like more of a voice into them;
- You have assets to offer - buildings, expertise, volunteers, etc. - and would like to use them to support your community and neighbourhoods;
- You are already doing things that complement statutory services and want the council and others to be more aware;
- You would like to know how to access funding to carry out the work you are doing;
- You have worked closely with the council throughout the pandemic and the Cost-of-Living Crisis and would like to see that commitment to partnership continue;

# What are we seeking?

- Relationships: Friendship, networks, partnerships and collaborations across all faith communities;
- To give faith a strategic voice: as a network that includes all faiths. When integrated into a work plan, we can become a vehicle for lasting change for our neighbourhoods and our city;
- Champions: people who “get it” and are willing to do the hard work to make a partnership of faiths happen and succeed;
- Longevity: together we want to create lasting impact, even when people move on, strategies change and priorities shift;



- You would like to establish a renewed commitment to partnership working around shared values with others;
- By getting involved you can:**
  - Increase your impact through close working and co-production with other faith communities, the local authority and other statutory agencies;
  - Be consulted more regularly about matters that affect your communities and neighbourhoods;
  - Turn good working relationships into recognised partnerships;
  - Open channels of communication between your faith community and others;

Together we are stronger.  
Please contact us at  
faithcommunities@derby.ac.uk

# How to get involved

- Join the conversation and tell us about the work you are doing to support local communities
- Join the Faith Steering Group
- Participate in consultations to shape a Faith Alliance for Derby
- Subscribe to our Mailing List
- Encourage others to join our network

Our partners

Faith Steering Group

Community Action

Derby City Council

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

LEVELLING UP

derby homes

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

**Faith Steering Group:**

**The Very Revd Peter Robinson**  
Dean of Derby (Chair)

**Bina Vasdev**  
Hindu Temple Geeta Bhawan Derby

**Eve Sacker**  
Interfaith representative, Nottingham Liberal Synagogue

**Asaf Afzal**  
Derby Asian Strategic Partnership and Derby Muslim Burial Council

**Geoff Sweeney**  
Director, Multifaith Centre at the University of Derby

**Daina Cummings**  
Church of God of Prophecy Trust (Derby)

**Henry Ita**  
New Life Church Derby

**Alan Barker**  
Derby Quakers

**Mahroof Hussain**  
Tell Mama UK

**Kim Harper**  
Chief Executive, Community Action Derby

**Dr Ali Akbar**  
Muslim chaplain, University of Derby

**Carl Tring-Willis**  
Head of Housing Management, Derby Homes

**Pamela Thompson**  
Community Development Team, Derby City Council



# Together we're stronger

- Our partners
- Faith Steering Group
- Community Action
- Derby City Council
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
- LEVELLING UP
- derby homes
- Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- UNIVERSITY OF DERBY



The Multi-Faith Centre  
The University of Derby  
Kedleston Road  
Derby, Derbyshire  
DE22 1GB. United Kingdom

faithcommunities@derby.ac.uk  
01332 591 285  
www.multifaithcentre.org

Join us in building a partnership of faiths and contribute to the wider community of Derby. Our vision is a city where the diversity, expertise and richness of faith communities contributes to the building of vibrant and growing neighbourhoods.

The motivation of faith groups is about love and compassion, providing longevity and offering hope. Faith shapes communities of people who want to act as good neighbours. Faith groups also demonstrate a willingness to go the extra mile. It's these shared values that we want to build on together.

Over the next year, we will be building a clearer picture of what faith communities are already offering and what your needs are, so that funding can flow more readily to support your communities and neighbourhoods.

We would love to hear more about your faith community, the things that matter most to you and any projects you are running, or want to run, in your community.



Who we are

We are a Steering Group, chaired by the Dean of Derby, and including diverse faith community voices, Community Action Derby and Derby City Council that is bringing forward proposals for engaging all faith communities with civil society.

In consultation with communities and public sector stakeholders (such as, Derby Homes, Police & Crime Commissioner and Public Health) an important strategic role for faith is emerging - a role that supports the sharing of best practice in supporting vulnerable people, improves and connects faith networks with local partners across public sector and civil society, and cultivates honest dialogue and greater collaboration within and across faith communities.

The Faith Steering Group is convened by the MFC and is mandated to bring forward proposals to establish a faith alliance (or equivalent body) on behalf of the sector. We want to invite all communities into the conversation and ensure that everyone feels empowered to shape it.

Our Theory of Change

Context

Covid and the Cost-of-Living crisis have had a devastating impact. Many people have lost jobs, are forced into poverty, and cannot feed their families. Many only get-by because of the direct interventions of faith communities. However, much of this work happens quietly and in an uncoordinated way. Faith communities can do more to support vulnerable people if their perspectives, networks and assets can be organised strategically and harnessed for the benefit of vulnerable communities.

Who we are

The Faith Steering Group is a collection of diverse faith community voices that has been mandated by the Stronger Communities Board to bring forward proposals for a Derby Faith Alliance, or similar body.

We work with

All faith communities, key partners across public, private and community & voluntary sectors in Derby

Our vision is a city where the diversity, expertise and richness of faith communities actively contributes to the building of vibrant, resilient, green and growing neighbourhoods.

