

Appendix 2

WMYC Projects

The trustees have identified several projects in order to fulfil the objectives of the Watford Muslim Youth Centre. These comprise (but are not limited to):

- **Art, Music and Cultural events** - encourage our youth to dig deep in their creative minds to produce masterpieces. We can provide a range of professionals in these fields to support the development of the young.
- **Projects for Women** - empowering local Muslim women and women in general. Building leadership skills and encouraging involvement in social work.
- **Neighbourhood Projects** - promoting civility and understanding within neighbourhoods. Establishing community events to encourage social cohesion and integration.
- **Projects for the elderly** - managing the welfare of our elderly. Ensuring our old generation keep fit and healthy via activities and social events.
- **Marriage Counselling** - solutions for Muslim marriages in the modern day.
- **Children's' activities** - regular activities for young children and meeting points for new mothers.
- **Educational resources** - providing access to educational materials for languages, extra-curricular studies and tutorials. Aiding both secular and religious education.
- **Mentoring initiatives** - providing constant mentoring for the youth and establishing active and good citizens as role models.
- **Primary School Projects** - guiding young children to appreciate the society in which they live and encourage them to recognise and understand good societal values.
- **Charity functions** - implement a wide variety of charity functions to allow Watford to play its part in providing relief to impoverished communities and to aid the less advantaged peoples in Watford.
- **Legal advice** - access to legal advice and connections to Arbitration Tribunals for any issues, in particular forced marriages and domestic violence.
- **Student Career Advice** - provide access to professionals who can buddy the young into make good decisions for academia and careers.
- **Personal and Spiritual Development** - ensuring that the young develop a healthy sense of personal and spiritual fulfilment.
- **Sport** - increasing participation in sport and physical activity in order to promote a more active life style. Discussions will be held with Westfield Community Technology College to use their sports facilities in order to hold an Annual Sports day.

- **Community Cafe** - open to the whole public and a welcoming space for everyone. For people waiting to use other services or for just meeting up for morning coffee.
- **Venue for hire** - various facilities will be made available for hire at, such as the main hall, classrooms and office rooms

Projects which will be given more focus will be mentoring especially for the youth, projects for the elderly and projects for women. These are discussed below in more detail.

Mentoring

There are no effective forums for the personal development of an individual. The traditional forums have become decadent over the last few centuries, e.g. the family; the faith communities; teachers in schools. There are some institutions which offer the individual some scope for progress, e.g. employer and friends, but this development is not geared towards the personal needs and aspirations of the individual but the interests of the aiding party.

The mentoring programme in place will be offered as one-to-one mentoring covering a wide variety of subjects designed towards supporting the personal development of the individual especially the youth. The subjects covered will focus upon developing essential human qualities, which have practical application. This development ensures that the individual is able to lead a life which has greater meaning for them, according to their own context and aspirations.

The mentor will act as a point of reference, an anchor of support and an axis of inspiration. The guidance will be tailor made instead of simply providing off the shelf solutions. The expectation is that the Mentor shall motivate the Mentee to the extent that the Mentee can become a role model within their own fraternity.

Projects for Women

Research shows that when women are empowered the entire community benefits resulting in a healthier and more stable community. Various workshops will be set up for Women to help build confidence of self. Opportunities will be made available for development of leadership and management skills and to encourage involvement in social work for the benefit of the community. We believe that every woman, no matter what her circumstance, should be offered the opportunity to consider what she would like for her own future and for the future of her community. We also believe that communities will be stronger and healthier when women's vision is part of the fabric of the community.

Projects for the elderly

Quite often the elderly are forgotten and neglected in society. The Centre will become a hub and central meeting point for the older generation. Various activities will be set up on a regular basis and run by local volunteers, giving the volunteers unique opportunities to gain leadership and management skills. Volunteering provides an opportunity to develop invaluable skills and competencies which cannot be rivalled by other experiences, as well being a great way to help those who really need that extra support in the community. Focus will be given to activities which ensure the elderly community keep socially and physically active.