

Commissioning Specification

1 Introduction and context

This proposal is part of a programme recently approved by the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Management Group. It is aimed at supporting activities to prevent the involvement of Oldham residents in violent extremism. The greatest threat of violent extremism is currently from violent extremism in the name of Islam. This activity is one of two aimed at building organisational capacity in Oldham to resist violent extremism.

This programme complements, and links closely with activity to build the capacity of local statutory organisations in working with Muslim people and organisations of Muslim people, to prevent involvement in violent extremism.

The Commissioned Activity is concerned with building community cohesion, which is a key objective of the Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Community Cohesion Strategy is currently under development, but the framework for this includes 6 outcome areas:

- *"Resilience to threats and conflict"*
- *"Improve the ability of organisations"*
- *Communities to prevent and resolve conflict".*
- *"Build the capacity of voluntary, community and faith groups to contribute to work to build community cohesion".*

The Activity will also help to tackle barriers to some of the proposals in Oldham Beyond. Such as:

- *"An inter-cultural Borough"*
- Creating *"Common Ground"* where people can meet and interact.
- It will support the development of sustainable neighbourhoods.

This Activity should help communities reject violent extremist ideologies, and also help contribute towards reducing hate crimes within the borough and develop confidence and improve reporting of intelligence on criminal activities.

Preventing Violent Extremism - Muslim communities capacity building

Accordingly, Expressions of Interest is invited to delivery the following; you may choose to focus on either all of the sections or choose to specialise on one or two of the sections highlighted below. Please tick the relevant section.

The Muslim Communities Capacity Building activity must help to build a community infrastructure that discourages people from getting involved in violent extremism it must aim to:

Part A (Please tick)	Develop Organisational Capacity	
	Build Capacity of Oldham Mosque Council	By providing support, training and development to enable it to work as a partner in preventing violent extremism, and also more generally in tackling issues concerning Muslim communities;
	Build linkages between Muslim organisations	To encourage collaboration in preventing violent extremism, and in addressing the issues that can lead people into violent extremism
	Support the development of strong working relationships	Between Muslim groups and other statutory and non-statutory organisations around preventing violent extremism, but also other issues of concern
Part B (Please tick)	Greater Participation of Women and young people	
	Greater Participation of women and men within mosques	Support the development of a greater role for of women and young people in leadership in Muslim organisations through greater voice within mosque committees.
Part C (Please tick)	Producing Teaching Materials on Citizenship	
	Develop high quality teaching materials on citizenship	For use in Oldham madrassas which complement, and are compatible with, the curriculum materials used in schools (drawing upon good practice available elsewhere as appropriate).

We are expecting the commissioned activity to provide a wide range of interventions, which contribute to a number of higher-level outcome measures relating to community cohesion:

- reduced risk of Oldham residents becoming involved in terrorist activity;
- evidence of change over time in the proportion of (particularly Muslim) people who would condone violent extremist activity;
- improved measures of cohesion across the Borough, as reflected in the LAA and measured through periodic surveys (next scheduled for Spring 2008).

In the shorter term, the contribution of this commission will need to be measured by assessment of specific activities:

- the number of Mosques actively involved in Oldham Mosque Council, and the ability of the Mosque Council to achieve a collaborative approach between Mosques and work in partnership with other organisations;
- the activity developed by Mosques and other organisations to prevent violent extremism and the levels of participation of people in these, including the extent of involvement of women and young people;
- the extent of the networks established between Muslim organisations and other statutory and non statutory partner organisations (for example the number of Mosques involved in inter-faith activity);
- the numbers of women and young people taking up leadership positions in Muslim organisations;
- the quality of resources developed and the take-up of these in madrassas.

Evaluation of progress must be built into the delivery of the Commissioned Activity.

The proposal must evidence how it will contribute directly to the cohesion measures in the LAA, but since these reflect the impact of a much wider range of activities, it is important to have measures, which are specific to this commission.

The total cost of the activity will not exceed £95,000 exclusive of VAT.

All elements of the work must be completed by March 2009

Expressions of Interest should be submitted on the template provided and addressed as below to arrive no later than: 4.00 p.m. on Friday 26th October 2007

Private and Confidential
(Ref: MC01)
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