



Salam and welcome to your first Newsletter!

April 2020 #1

THE BRISTOL MUSLIM STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP GROUP

Introducing you to the Bristol Muslim Strategic Leadership Group (BMSLG) - a groundbreaking initiative bringing together Muslims from across the diverse communities of Bristol to work strategically with each other and with the leaders of the City to improve the lives of Muslims in Bristol and strengthen ties, connections and contributions to Bristol and wider society.

These are some of the issues we aim to address: A lower proportion of Muslims (17.9%) are in full time employment than the Bristol average (36.6%).

Muslims have a lower proportion of people in managerial and professional occupations (19.8%) than the city average (43.8%).

*See www.bristol.gov.uk/statistics

Almost a quarter (23%) of Muslims have never worked or are long-term unemployed (Bristol average 5.5%).

Most Muslims (44.4%) live in social rented accommodation, a higher proportion than the population as a whole (19.6%).

People from Muslim backgrounds are increasingly accessing mental health and psychological services in the West.

Religious hate crime has risen in recent years and Bristol is no exception.

These statistics show why it's so important that we come together to address these issues for Muslims in Bristol. This is the purpose of the BMSLG.

Muslims are well known for their charitable activities and Bristol Muslims are committing their time and expertise to improve the position of Muslims in Bristol.

BMSLG TIMELINE

Early 2000's - talks of a united Bristol Muslim group.

April 2018 - first inception meeting and setting up of aims and purpose, terms of reference etc.

July 2018 - approaching Statutory Partners to join BMSLG.

March 2019 - launch of BMSLG to the communities of Bristol at City Hall supporting by City's leaders and Baroness Sayeeda Warsi.

May 2019 - launch of recruitment campaign for BMSLG Strategy Group members.

July 2019 - 20 BMSLG Strategy Group members recruited. 12 men and 8 women including Somali, Polish, Pakistani, English, Bangladeshi, Arab and Turkish Muslims across Bristol.

August 2019 - 1st BMSLG meeting to set priorities and actions along with Statutory Partners.

December 2019 - 2nd BMSLG meeting to set up specific Task Groups to work on priority areas and actions.

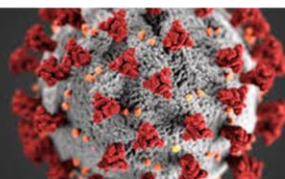
February 2020 - 3rd full BMSLG Strategy Group Meeting. Setting up a Media & Comms Strategy and Research Plan.

April 2020 - 4th full BMSLG Strategy Group Meeting.

COVID-19

BMSLG have responded quickly to support the fight against Coronavirus and are proud of the Muslim communities' contributions to curb the disease, including the timely closing of mosques and supporting the vulnerable. This includes:

- working with the NHS to produce videos in 8 languages to get key coronavirus messages across to all communities.
- supporting our Associate Partners Black South West Network (BSWN) to assess the economic impact of coronavirus on Bristol's BME and Muslim businesses and livelihoods.
- supporting Bristol's Muslim funeral services and Bristol City Council to ensure sufficient burial and storage facilities in the event of peak in the death rate.
- supporting the continuing of Radio Ramadan as a means to connect, bind and communicate with the Muslim communities of Bristol at a time when mosques have to be closed.



TASK GROUPS – WHAT DO THEY DO?

BMSLG is organized into Task Groups for focused work

We have six Task Groups, each working to improve the position of Muslims in Bristol.

1. Health Task Group with the NHS
2. Council Services Task Group with Bristol City Council
3. Police Task Group with Avon & Somerset Constabulary
4. Research Task Group with Bristol University
5. BMSLG Media & Comms Task Group
6. Specific Community Issue Task Group – currently the Islamic Fayre (ICF) 2021

Each sector-specific Task Group is led by members with a specific interest in that area who work closely with the

statutory or associate partner organisation.

We aim to shape strategy at the highest level so that service delivery is appropriate to the cultural and faith needs of Muslims in Bristol.

We do this by working with partners to ensure that we sit on boards and panels where decisions are made and contribute to shaping services.

BMSLG Strategy Group members are using their skills, knowledge and professional expertise to help make a difference for Muslims in Bristol.

I joined BMSLG to use my knowledge and skills to help improve the lives of Muslims in Bristol

Shiren Mohammed,
Assistant Educational Psychologist
and BMSLG Health Task Group
Member

Your BMSLG Strategy Group Members and Partners



Our logo colours represent Bristol colours in a range of shades to reflect diversity.

The image reflects people working together and the cog in the middle represents the strategic element of the Bristol Muslim Strategic Leadership Group.

For more information, please visit our website

bmslgroup.wixsite.com/bmslgroup

To get in touch or share your views please email

info@bmslgroup.co.uk

