



## The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

The purpose of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is to support, equip and enable organisations to identify local solutions to their community safety problems. The OFBCI works towards achieving the ambition for Northamptonshire to be the safest place in England and it therefore operates to achieve our 6 [police and crime plan](#) outcomes. We have 3 strategic change programmes that are designed to stimulate positive change in our communities so they are safer, stronger, independent, resilient and inclusive.

### **We recognise...**

- Our purpose is to help to build the capacity of faith based and community organisations to improve on what they already do well and we will pump prime innovation that will lead to preventative and sustainable local initiatives. We will help them to measure and demonstrate the positive impact they are having on the lives of people and their communities. We will positively increase the general perception these organisations have with the public, with funders, with policy makers and with criminal justice academics.
- That many faith and community organisations are trusted leaders who are well placed to identifying and meet public safety needs and issues.
- That the public sector resources for meeting these needs and issues are insufficient and under-pressure.
- That faith and community organisations are experienced and well placed to take account of the complexities and sensitivities of human expectation and interaction.
- That through community social action – organisations are able to focus on needs and issues that can help neighbourhoods become safer and people more secure.
- Through identifying solutions and solving problems and complimenting the assets in communities we can make significant contribution to the process of building resilient neighbourhoods.
- We know that faith and community organisations contribute to public social value both economically, environmentally and socially and that this also makes positive difference to people's health and well-being.

- Many pioneering, innovating ideas and campaigns such as “making poverty history” have been developed by faith and community organisations
- Sharing innovation and pioneering approaches through collaborative strategic partnerships can lead to improving practice, community transformation and positive change

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## **Current Initiatives Supported by the OFBCI 2015/16:**

### **Northamptonshire Somali Women & Girls Association**

Who it will support: This initiative will support Young girls and families at risk of Female Genital Mutilation over the summer holiday period, July-September 2015.

What the project is: the association will work with women who were victims of FGM working now towards eradication. The aim is to give schools the skills they need in order to hold discussions with parents of children who may be at risk of FGM, develop FGM child protection policy, educate young girls who can feel confident to disclose.

Where it will be implemented: within 12 schools in Northampton with girls from high practising communities an estimate of 100 young girls.

When: Initial 1 day goal setting community call for action event, followed by 8 wks of school outreach, coupled with weekly meetings with community volunteers

How: A community call for action event will happen, Booklets and ‘how to’ guides will be devised for school to use with young people and parents, Flyers will be produced and placed in schools, GP’s, Children’s Centres to raise the awareness, Training package for victims with a hope for them to become FGM eradication volunteers.

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## **Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council**

Who it will support: victims or groups who are at risk of Hate Crime. Working with BAME groups, disability groups, faith groups and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transvestite) groups.

What the project is: the project 'stop the hate in Northants' project aims to host 6 hate crime incident reporting training sessions to; raise awareness of what Hate Crime and Hate incidents are, increase understanding of how to report, and the benefits of reporting Hate Crime and Hate incidents.

Where it will be implemented: Northampton, Kettering & Wellingborough

When: the project will run between April and November 2015 with training activity taking place on approximately a monthly basis. The week of action will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2015.

How: Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council wish to culminate the training sessions with a week of action over National Hate Crime Awareness week.

**Grant Awarded - £2,700**

## **Kettering Muslim Association**

Who it will support: it will support at least 14 different nationalities within Kettering and will be open to over 450 Muslims as well as members of the wider communities.

What the project is: The initiatives 'Youth and Community Engagement' is all about community cohesion, peer and family support through the use of sports as a diversion. This will also provide leadership, self confidence in creating a positive role model, and as a by-product help improve the health and wellbeing of the community.

Where it will be implemented: Kettering town & surrounding villages

When: the initiative will run for 6 months, from May to October 2015

How: The initiative aims to provide sport and diversionary activities which will bring the community closer together and better connect it to the wider community.

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## **East Northants Faith Group (East Northants Community Services)**

Who it will support: those in attendance on the course, many of whom have a troubled and consistent history of police and crime involvement.

What the project is: the initiative will be called Unlock Your Potential – Back to Work – Employability training and development Project. It is their aim in conjunction of other charities to support work to offer employability and back to work training.

Where it will be implemented: Rushden & Higham but other towns and villages within East Northants

When: between July – November 2015

How: they would seek to develop bespoke social enterprise works which will especially support those moving on from either addiction through the Recovery House 12 step rehabilitation programme or those moving on from homelessness through our Sanctuary Night Shelter work.

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## **Northampton Inter Faith Forum (NIFF)**

Who it will support: In total it is anticipated that over 500 individuals will take part (100 per seminar)

What the project is: the project will be called 'lets talk'. bringing people of communities at grass roots level together and share views from individual faiths perspectives. The Overall impact will be to create safer communities with the aim to prevent Hate Crimes ranging from low level anti-social behaviour to more serious violent crimes towards individuals and places of worships.

Where it will be implemented: Northampton mainly but will be open to countywide groups.

When: over 10 month's period

How: Seminars will provide a platform for each faith to highlight its origin, background and while respecting individuality but at the same time focusing on similarity amongst faiths, which brings all faiths together in principal.

**Grant Awarded - £2,840**

## **Sikh Community Centre & Youth Club (SCCYC)**

Who it will support: The project will support 3000 young people aged 11 to 16 year olds in 1 year.

What the project is: The Sikh Education wish to develop visits the Sikh Temple annually or the Sikh Education Officer visits them at school assemblies/workshops and make use of the high attendance to include a Citizenship Project.

Where it will be implemented; Northampton

When: It is anticipated that there will be 2 school visits per week of 60 young people over 40 weeks

How: The project will entail preventative work to deter young people from crime and anti-social behaviour with diversion through fun activities such as music, arts & crafts, debates, free food, interactive learning and our visual heritage exhibition.

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## **Multicultural Festival**

Who it will support: young people, local businesses and the general community of Northampton

What the project is: the initiative 'Young Freestylers' will help achieve making Northampton a more secure place by engaging the youth, promoting cultural diversity and getting them involved in a meaningful activity. They also aim contribute to reducing drugs and acquisitive crime by keeping young people off the streets. Directing their energy towards something more positive and beneficial to the general community.

Where it will be implemented: Northampton

When: The project will start in May and our target is two sessions fortnightly. There will be a total of 24 session over a period six months and each session will run between 3 to 4 hours.

How: through street dance workshops

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## **Re:store Northampton**

Who it will support: expected to help 10,000 adults and children across Northamptonshire

What the project is: this project aims to make Northamptonshire a safer place, reduce violent and acquisitive crime, and see a reduction in drug consumption and ASB. The funding will be used to aid their current ongoing project, supplying food, housing and advice to those in need. Alongside this, they work to develop preventative skills to avoid reaching the stage of having no money for food or housing.

Where it will be implemented: Northampton

When: ongoing

How: Re:store Hub aims to offer 200 sessions a year, which will average 4 sessions per week, for 50 weeks of the year. This will consist of the drop-in sessions. CAP Money course offered quarterly, CAP Release (addictions course), life skills, cookery, the allotment programme, employability workshops.

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## **Pearls of Peace**

Who it will support: Women

What the project is: What we are aiming to achieve, is for us to set up a partnership with Voices Against Abuse to help women to report violent crimes, verbal abuse and any other aggressive crime against them and for us as Pearls of Peace, to provide qualified counselling sessions in a safe and trusted environment to support the victims through the difficult situation.

Where it will be implemented: Northampton, residents of St James, Spencer, Upton and Dallington and their nearby local communities

When: 6 months – counselling, 12 months/ongoing for supporting & crime recording

How: through counselling, offering support and advice and through the possibility of Restorative approaches between the victim and perpetrator.

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## [Church on the Heath](#)

Who it will support: Children & Young people of Northampton

What the project is: This is a heart, mind and body project that will encourage responsible behaviour, provide safe space for social interaction and nurture hope for the young person's future prospects

Where it will be implemented: Northampton

When: The project will run from Spring 2015 until Summer 2016 initially. Three regular weekly activities supplemented by monthly targeted presentations. This is expected to require 16 hours per week.

How: It will provide a Weekly Youth Drop in, Weekly term time Homework Club Mentoring by regular appointment, Drugs Education through school and club presentations and a trained person to educate concerning addictive practices and the development of constructive relationships

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

## [Northamptonshire Development Society](#)

Who it will support: The initiative aims to engage and commit at least 30 people to take part of the workshops. All the people who will make use of this project are of the low socio-economic class, majority being from the BMEs in Northampton

What the project is: The project will target 3 specific needs identified through discussions by parents, youth and the organization's management which are shortage or lack of (a) education and employability support (b) crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs awareness and (c) sports and healthy activities for positive

Where it will be implemented: Northampton

When: The project will be for 6 months. It will arrange a 1 workshop each week and 1 activity session. These two events will be designed to complement each other as an incentive and as a positive flow.

How: Most of the families have low incomes and are not able to pay for extracurricular activities for their youth. A good number of service users are youth of single mothers and people on government support. We believe this project will make a much needed difference and increase positive development within the community and reduce violent crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs and crime as well as make Northamptonshire a securer place.

**Grant Awarded - £3,000**

Further details can be found here:

<http://ofbci.com/our-programmes/current-initiatives/>