

Meeting held on Tuesday 19 September 2017 at Greenwich SDA Church

## Meeting Notes

There was a Prayer time from 12 - 12.20pm

### 1. Welcome, Introduction and apologies:

Present: Bernard Akepo, Paul Bickley, Rebecca Bickley, Joseph Boadu, David Chick, Kelly Cotterell, Simeon Essen, Claion Grandison, Mike Leader, Andy Masters, Michael Obusuyi, Israel Olofinjana, Christine Ridgwell, Hugh Ridsdill-Smith, Eddie Scrace-Field, John Twidale,

Apologies received from: Susan Boorman, Margaret Cave, Sany Christie, Jo Crisp-Hinh, Tim Cross, Kim Hitch, Vic Lambert, Andrew Latimer, Tim Linkens, Pat Mann, David Morgan, Chris Moody, David Sherratt, Ariadne Van den Hof, Brett Ward, Abi Willetts, Tim Yeager

### 2. Updates & reviews:

**Education:** Prayer for schools (next meeting Thursday 21 September, 11am at St Nicholas, Kidbrooke)

**GYFC:** Christine reported that GYFC had two new students starting and that new work was beginning at the Church of the Cross, Thamesmead

**Foodbank:** Some items in the warehouse had got very low in the Summer and the effect of Universal Credit was being felt. It was hoped that Harvest Festivals would help to up stores. Church Leaders were encouraged to look at the Foodbank App to identify needed items. Toiletries and Toilet Paper were also needed. Church Leaders could apply to be voucher holders.

**Street Pastors:** Greenwich Street Pastors has now been registered as a charitable organisation (CIO).

**Night Shelter:** No update. Training would be starting around now.

**Refugees Greenwich:** Progress being made in encouraging Royal Greenwich Council to keep its undertaking to house refugee families. Once the first families arrived there would be lots of opportunities for church members to help.

### 3. Greenwich Parent Voice - Embracing Disability Project (Hugh Ridsdill-Smith)

Hugh spoke about this project which was started by a group of concerned parents of children with disabilities or special needs in the borough to pass on the views of parents and help to shape and influence the provision. It was felt that Church Services were sometimes 'unfriendly environments' to these children. Over 50% of children with disabilities in Greenwich come from BME families and yet BME families are the least likely to engage with support services. Since the church is at the centre of the community it has been suggested that a special service involving local church leaders might help to deal with negative perceptions.

A reception for Church Leaders in Greenwich, hosted by the Bishop of Woolwich, was planned for November. Details will be circulated. A service would be planned for Saturday 3 March 2018. It is hoped that Church Leaders in Greenwich will feel that they can support this initiative. Please see the attached information sheet.

4. **Annual Review of Greenwich Church Leaders Forum**

It was agreed that the Forum would continue to meet bi-monthly next year. Dates would be agreed at the next meeting.

5. **Information:** Mycenae House Drop in Café for Seniors Every Thursday 1 - 4pm

Infofair on 28 September 1 - 4pm

Men in Sheds (50+) every Wednesday from 12 - 3pm until 13 October.

Peninsula Multi faith Prayer Space is moving to the Aperture Building, 42 Chandlers Way SE10 0EG. Launch is on 2 November

6. Any Other business

Greenwich SDA Church have a drop-in with a meal on Mondays from 11am.

Next meeting:

**30 November**

Thanks to Simeon and Greenwich SDA Church for hosting us.