

# COMPACT AT WORK

**Compact**  
VOICE

Compact Award  
Winner 2012

## Redbridge: Building partnerships across faiths to improve community safety

Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) successfully developed a range of projects with partners from the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and the statutory sector, who all work to Compact values and agreements - strengthening relationships in doing so.

The projects intended to bring together representatives from different community groups and faiths, in order to both improve community safety for older people and to involve people from different faith communities in discussing end of life care.

### What Happened

RFF undertook two main activities:

- A well-attended workshop on Adults at Risk of Neglect or Abuse
- A project to involve faith communities in discussing end-of-life care and contributing to a directory for use by front-line service staff and the faith communities themselves

For the project looking at Adults at Risk of Neglect or Abuse, RFF recruited leaders from both majority and minority faith groups, enabling Redbridge Council's Adult Social Services to address groups they had previously had difficulty in reaching.

A workshop was held, which included a speaker with experience of working with elderly people from minority ethnic communities, who challenged the perception that the elderly were all well cared for by and within the family and community. Redbridge Age Concern (a linked voluntary and community sector partner) also attended, giving practical advice on protecting individuals and property.

50 faith representatives attended the workshop.

The Compact code of practice was followed in planning and engaging with different partners for the event. Faith representatives present said there was a tangible impact in enabling communities to confront and challenge the need to ask for help in supporting elderly, vulnerable adults.

This workshop was followed by a series of others with the theme of "safer communities", for which RFF worked with ten partners. The focus of the workshops arose from concerns raised through evaluations and informal discussions at different events organised by RFF to promote social cohesion.

Literature on protecting the interests of elderly relatives was widely distributed across faith groups, including at places of worship, and these were much valued, with follow up requests for additional leaflets received.

RFF also supported Adult Social Services by bringing faith representatives into a project to create a document entitled 'To Comfort Always', a health services resource to help in ensuring that privacy, dignity and

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**Theme:**  
Supporting  
voluntary  
organisations

### Compact Principles

5: And Equal and  
Fair Society

3: Responsive and  
high quality  
programmes and  
services

### Tags

Equality and  
Diversity

Local Compacts

Engagement

...Continued

religious and cultural beliefs are respected.

The faith representatives involved in the partnership contributed valuable information, including contact details and proposing amendments. The document is an inter-cultural spiritual care directory and is used across the region.

It is available on the Redbridge Council website and is being emailed to a wide range of partners including the Police and Fire Brigade, GPs, hospitals, residential and nursing homes, as well

## Impact

RFF, working with Redbridge Council and other statutory sector and VCS partners, have ensured that faith communities have been involved in work which has benefitted from having their input.

RFF played a key role in involving faith communities in these projects, and trying to ensure that faith communities which have not always been fully understood have a voice. Approximately 238 people attended a range of activities with ten partners: four from the statutory sector, six from the voluntary & community sector and seven faith groups.

## Quote

This project was awarded a Compact Advancing Equality Award in 2012. Judges were impressed with the nominations, saying:

“This is an excellent, practical example of a project that makes a real difference.

The example set by Redbridge Faith Forum and their partners should be emulated all over the country: if we could all do 100 things like this rather than spend ages talking about doing one big thing this would make an incredible difference to communities.”

## Related links

- Redbridge Faith Forum: [www.redbridgefaithforum.org](http://www.redbridgefaithforum.org)
- [Redbridge Compact website](#)
- [RedbridgeCVS Compact information](#)

as VCS groups. Faith representatives thought the document would be of great use in helping families to prepare for end-of-life care.

As a follow up to this work, the registrar for births, deaths and marriages spoke to RFF on arrangements for registering deaths at the weekend. This was particularly valued by the Muslim and Jewish communities who have strict time constraints for burial and for the Sikh representatives who were unfamiliar with some of the procedures.

The relationship between the partners has been strengthened through tackling issues together.

With both pieces of work, faith representatives said there was a tangible impact in enabling communities to confront and challenge the need to ask for help in supporting elderly vulnerable adults.

There's also the longer-term impact of developing on-going relationships, as several faith representatives involved in the workshop on Adults at Risk of Neglect or Abuse indicated an interest in further training.



Pictured: Partners from Redbridge being awarded a Compact Award in 2012 by Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society (back row, 3rd from left)