



Strategic Plan 2021-25 – Executive Summary

Leeds Faiths Forum’s Strategic Plan aims to set out key objectives for the next 5 years, and to establish a way forward for Leeds Faiths Forum to establish itself as the first point of call for interfaith in Leeds. Our vision is of a city where there is knowledge and understanding of the diverse faiths, beliefs and cultures within it, and the contribution that they all make to our city and its future.

Strategic Aims 2021 – 2025

We aim to:

1. Make sure that LFF is effective, appropriately funded, sustainable and able to respond quickly to challenges and change
2. Continue to develop LFF’s role in the city and work towards new ways of engaging external organisations, partnership bodies, membership organisations and individuals
3. Raise awareness of the importance of interfaith engagement, co-operation and dialogue, and be a trusted source of information in the city about this
4. Strengthen and increase interfaith engagement opportunities in the city and widen participation in this
5. Contribute to greater understanding about and between the different faith communities in Leeds and to greater knowledge about, and skills for, interfaith engagement
6. Work with faith communities’ and their members towards a truly inclusive society and city, marked by mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good
7. Work with other community and voluntary sector organisations in Leeds through the city’s Third Sector infrastructure, including the Communities of Interest Network, to contribute to the diversity, capacity and sustainability of the Third Sector.

We will achieve these aims by:

1. Putting in place robust governance, management, forward planning and branding
2. Strengthening links between member bodies and partners, developing new ways of engaging, and responding to change and need
3. Providing member bodies and the general public with key and targeted information about the importance of, and good practice examples of, interfaith initiatives
4. Supporting, with advice, information and signposting, existing and new interfaith initiatives in the city, particularly “missing dialogues” and geographical gaps.
5. Developing and encouraging religious literacy, and key skills for interfaith engagement
6. Continuing to engage with and contribute to relevant consultations, and respond to local, national and international major public incidents with an interfaith dimension
7. Working with, and on behalf of, faith communities to represent the voice of the faith sector within the wider Third Sector, including cross-sector challenges such as LGBT and Faith, Gender and Faith, Disability and Faith, climate change and the long-term implications of Covid-19.

We will measure the achievement of our Strategic Aims by the:

- Meeting of agreed outputs for activities, as set out in Work Plans;
- Number of people we engage with, including through our meetings, visit, website, newsletters and publications;
- Social media analytics;
- Range of organisations, individuals, projects and initiatives to which we give comment, advice or point to other reliable sources of information;
- Number of events we run and the quality of feedback received from these;
- Range of published resources (website or hard copy);
- Development in the number of interfaith initiatives in Leeds, including growth and also consolidation;
- Size of membership and number of opportunities afforded for engagement between member bodies;
- Growth in participation in and the number of events during Inter Faith Week in the city;
- Year-on-year increase in income from a diverse range of sources;
- Attraction and retention of Executive Board members;
- Appointment of qualified and committed Executive Board Officers with particular responsibilities for delivering the Work Plan;
- Good-quality opportunities provide for volunteering and internship.