

How to bring a radical new approach to local community involvement: transforming outcomes of historically excluded communities.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND GENERAL SYNOD Saturday 12 July 2014 6.45pm for 7pm in James Hall

Malik Gul: Director, Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network

Julian Corner: CEO, Lankelly Chase Foundation

Shaykh Imam Sulieman Gani: Chaplain, St George's Hospital, Tooting

Bishop Euston Copeland: Bibleway Churches UK

Catriona Robertson: Convener, London Boroughs Faiths Network

Panel Chair: Dr Elizabeth Henry, National Adviser, Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

MIND THE GAP

Finding solutions to inequalities

In 2001 the government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal sought to put communities at the centre of decision making processes. In 88 of the most deprived areas across the country, Community Empowerment Networks were established to be members of Local Strategic Partnerships, bringing historically excluded communities to the table to develop a programme to reduce inequalities. Today, Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network is the last one standing.

In part, this is down to our discovery of 'community', the *intermediary institutions* that bind together our social fabric - churches, mosques, temples, gurdwaras, synagogues, local groups and social networks - holders of social capital which is deployed for the good of their members and for the benefit of the wider community.

Gap between services and people

From Neighbourhood Renewal we uncovered the statutory duties that our public agencies hold towards improving the quality of people's lives. But these agencies are not embedded in our communities; they keep an arm's length away, failing even to meet those who have the greatest knowledge and relationships which could help them fulfil their responsibilities and which would, in turn, serve all through the reduction of inequalities.

Since then, many governments and policies have come and gone and none have been able to close the gap between public bodies and communities in ways that have been able to improve the outcomes and opportunities for the poorest and most excluded members of our society. In fact, the gaps in inequalities have become wider and the solutions to tackle them have become even more elusive.





The big social welfare challenges we face include mental health (1 in 4 of us will be affected with poor mental health in our lifetime), cardiovascular disease (the biggest cause of death in the UK), diabetes (rising at an unprecedented rate) and increasing rates of dementia and other long term conditions. Weakening social cohesion and disillusionment with public processes only exacerbate the situation.

Community coproduction

What if we flipped the paradigm and started to coproduce public services at the heart of our communities? With faith and community groups becoming hubs for the design and delivery of support and services that best meet the needs of their members and communities, where people feel comfortable? What if we did this together in solidarity with other communities and as part of a new deal with our public agencies? What would happen? Is it possible to build a ladder of participation that could not only improve the health and wellbeing of our communities but also lead to a civic awakening?

The Big Society, the Good Society, the Common Good . . . operationalised?

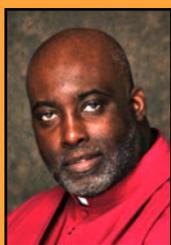


Malik Gul

Malik Gul is Director of Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network. He has a career spanning over 30 years in the frontline of community-public service. He has obtained a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Warwick and his current doctoral interests are in public policy and co production. WCEN is a member of the Lankelly Chase Promoting Change Network. @MalikGul www.spaa.org

Julian Corner

Julian has been Chief Executive of Lankelly Chase Foundation since 2011. Lankelly Chase is an independent funder whose aim is to shift fundamentally the way society supports people who face severe and multiple disadvantages. Julian was previously Head of Strategy for Crime and Policing in the Home Office and Chief Executive of Revolving Doors Agency. @JulianCorner www.lankellychase.org.uk



Bishop Euston Copeland

Diocesan Bishop Euston Copeland of Bibleway Churches UK, is an experienced theologian orator and teacher, excelling in training future leaders and the development of churches in the UK and Internationally. A professional social work consultant to local authorities and central government, he also trained and worked in the NHS over the past 30 years. Bishop Copeland actively contributes, and leads on community groups and charitable organizations specializing in working with children and families, and adults with mental health. He is a trained member of WCEN's Pastors Network for Family Care. www.biblewaychurches.com

Shaykh Sulieman Gani

Shaykh Sulieman Gani was born in South Africa, completed his Hifz whilst young, and pursued his Islamic Studies in Pakistan. Allah blessed him to be accepted at Al Azhar University, gaining Ijazas in Qur'an, Hadith, Fiqh and Aqeeda. He later graduated from the University of Medina and also holds an MA in Islamic Studies from SOAS. A former head of Balham and Tooting Madrassa and Imam at Tooting Islamic Centre, Shaykh Sulieman is Muslim Chaplain at St George's and Springfield hospitals in London, a TV presenter at Islam Channel & Iqra TV and is Imam at Croydon Mosque. He is a regular participant in interfaith activities and a leading member of WCEN's Muslim Network for Family Care.



Catriona Robertson

A former churchwarden, deanery synod lay chair & member of Southwark Diocesan Synod, Catriona Robertson works with local religious and community organisations. She convenes the London Boroughs Faiths Network, the European Network on Religion & Belief (UK) and the London Peace Network. Catriona's writing on social justice and intercultural issues appears online and in books and journals. Catriona has worked with WCEN since 2002 and brought together its multifaith network. @multifaith www.lbfn.org





Dr Elizabeth Henry, National Adviser, Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

Elizabeth Henry joined the Church of England as National Adviser for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns in January 2013. Elizabeth leads the work of the church in improving and increasing the inclusion, representation and participation of its minority ethnic members. Additionally, Elizabeth leads the work of the church in combatting racism in wider society wherever it is found.

Previously she was the Chief Executive at Race On The Agenda (ROTA) a social policy and action research charity that focuses on race equality and issues affecting Britain's Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities through providing voice, influencing, representation and through increasing participation.

Dr. Henry has extensive strategic management experience, serving as Director of Public Health at Fortbend Family Health Centre in Texas, USA, and Assistant Director/Public Health Specialist at Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Health Authority, London UK.

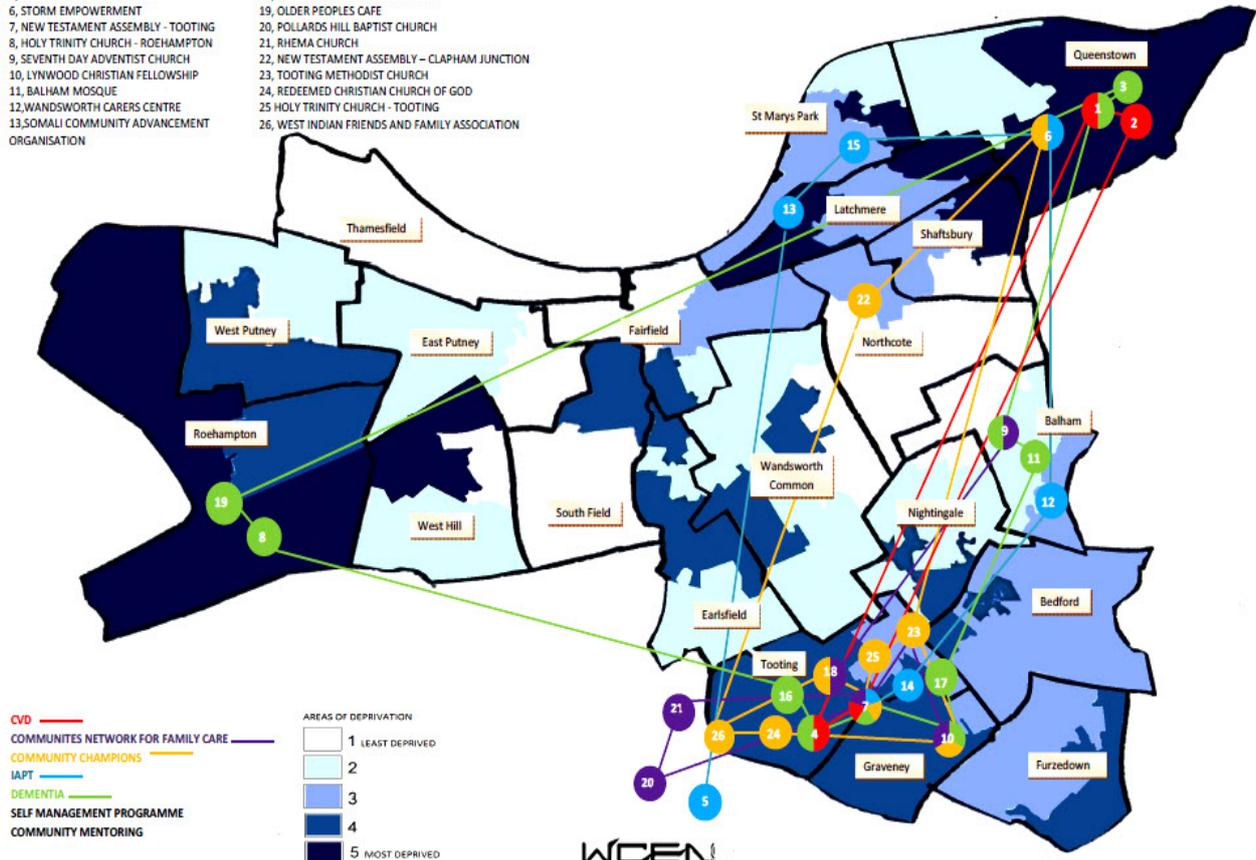
Elizabeth's personal and professional philosophy is informed by her passion for addressing inequalities and working towards achieving equality for all. She has applied this philosophy through; advocacy and campaigning on racism & race equality, and in developing and delivering equality, diversity and capacity building programmes in international and UK settings. Elizabeth worked in the USA for 10 years (in Dallas, Houston and New York) tackling inequalities formerly as a Director of Nursing and then as a Director of Public Health. More recently she used her expertise in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe working as a consultant with both the Department for International Development and Marie Stopes International. In the UK Elizabeth worked with public sector organisations including the Metropolitan Police Service, London Underground, the Crown Prosecution Service, Immigration and Nationality Service, Local authorities and others.

Elizabeth is Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Selby Trust, a large community charity based in North London.

She holds a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Centre.

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| 1, ELAYS NETWORK | 14, TOOTING NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE |
| 2, ASSOCIATION OF SOMALI WOMEN CHILDREN | 15, KATHERINE LOW SETTLEMENT |
| 3, OLDER PEOPLES NETWORK | 16, SOLACE COMMUNITY CARE |
| 4, MUSHKIL AASAAN | 17, ST AUGUSTINE CHURCH |
| 5, SHREE GANAPATHY TEMPLE | 18, YAHWEH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP |
| 6, STORM EMPOWERMENT | 19, OLDER PEOPLES CAFE |
| 7, NEW TESTAMENT ASSEMBLY - TOOTING | 20, POLLARDS HILL BAPTIST CHURCH |
| 8, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - ROEHAMPTON | 21, RHEMA CHURCH |
| 9, SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH | 22, NEW TESTAMENT ASSEMBLY - CLAPHAM JUNCTION |
| 10, LYNWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP | 23, TOOTING METHODIST CHURCH |
| 11, BALHAM MOSQUE | 24, REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD |
| 12, WANDSWORTH CARERS CENTRE | 25, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - TOOTING |
| 13, SOMALI COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT ORGANISATION | 26, WEST INDIAN FRIENDS AND FAMILY ASSOCIATION |

Wandsworth Co-Production Cluster Map



Map showing deprivation levels in Wandsworth, London, and the public services - co-designed and co-produced by churches, mosques, temples and community organisations - currently taking place.



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NOTES

If you would like to find out more, to speak to local religious communities with experience in the coproduction of public services, or to arrange a visit, contact Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network or any of today's panellists.

www.spaa.info nadeene@wcen.org.uk 020-7720 9110