

Strengthening Faith Institutions: Questions and Answers

1. When are you expecting the programme to start?

The winning organisation or consortium is expected to be announced on 26 March. We expect the programme to begin to set up from then, and the first funding will go out in April.

2. Are you expecting Community Engagement Champions to be paid?

It is for the delivery organisation to decide this, but we were envisaging Champions being compensated to some degree.

3. Why are those particular local authorities listed as places where you would like the programme to run?

Integration priority areas were identified based on a combination of analysis of census and survey data and policy consideration.

4. How can we make the programme sustainable?

We expect bidders to incorporate sustainability plans as far as possible. Examples could be arrangements to continue maintenance of the website after funding ends or plans to cascade training. We understand that some projects funded under a small grants programme may not be sustainable, but they should have at the minimum plans for activities after the funding ends, for example referring participants on to other programmes, or continuing some social activities.

5. Do you expect matched funding?

We do not expect match funding, but we are open to innovative approaches from bidders.

6. Operating across England would be very costly.

The list of locations is indicative only: organisations do not have to cover every one and they could cover others if they can provide good reasons to do so. The priority is to provide a good spread of locations across England. It is up to bidders to show how they could do this.

7. There are already people in the faith space with the experience and the wisdom to support faith institutions when issues arise: why reinvent one?

We are looking for innovative solutions, possibly using existing frameworks for ensuring the widest dissemination of training possible. Bidders are free to propose their own ideas.

8. How does this fit in with Government's integration strategy?

This programme is funded solely by DCLG and is part of our work to create integrated communities where people feel they belong. This programme is part of

our wider approach set out in *Creating the Conditions for Integration*¹ and is designed to empower people and institutions and encourage them to participate further in society, build common ground between faiths and communities, and tackle intolerance and extremism, including anti-Muslim hatred, far-right extremism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamic extremism and other genres of intolerance. All of these deepen division and increase tensions.

9. The programme aims to do many things: which are the priorities?

The priority is to increase the resilience, leadership and governance of faith institutions of all religions and to strengthen the capacity of faith institutions. In order to achieve this, the programme will also have to achieve other equally important goals such as giving faith institutions a stronger base from which to challenge intolerance and extremism of any kind and to engage better with women, young people and their wider communities.

10. £400,000 isn't enough money to achieve your goals

The budget allocated to this programme was worked out on the basis of other programmes that DCLG funds or has funded in the past. For example, DCLG currently funds [FORWARD](#) and [African Advocacy Foundation](#) £40,000 to create an England-wide network of community champions to speak against female genital mutilation.

11. How much of the total are you expecting to be spent on grants?

We do not specify that the programme has to include grants. If a bidder does want to run a grant programme as part of strand 3, we expect a minimum of £150,000 could be appropriate (excluding administration costs). If they want to run a grants programme, bidders can decide whether they want to spend more than this, split the pot into fewer, larger grants, smaller grants of a few hundred pounds or a mixture.

12. Would the successful bidder be expected to give legal advice themselves?

No, we expect the successful bidder only to support organisations and signpost them to sources of legal advice where necessary.

13. All bidders will have good ideas- can some of these be fed into the winning bidder's project?

It will be up to the successful bidder to decide how to incorporate others' ideas into their programme, but in principle they could do so in consultation with DCLG.

¹ February 2012, DCLG