

Lord Mayor of Bristol

Campaign for Organ and Blood Donation

The Lord Mayor, Cllr Faruk Choudhury, chose this as his special campaign during his year of office 2013 – 2014. His aim was raise awareness and increase blood and organ donation in Bristol with a particular focus on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities who are under-represented - on the NHS Organ Donor Register. The campaign has consisted of national, local, community and digital media, face to face events, formal events, training events for community leaders and personal stories.

One of the campaign's initiatives was the Sikh and Muslim dinner on the 17th of January.

“On 17th January 2014, I attended an evening dinner meeting at Caffè Sazz in Bedminster which was aimed to bring together members of the Muslim and Sikh communities to build relationships, to connect with agencies and to discuss Blood and Organ Donation. My role as an NHSBT employee was to be able to answer any questions from the attendees about the processes for Organ Donation.

It was a great evening which found people meeting over a great Turkish Dinner! Meze, followed by Mousaka, finished off with real Turkish Delight, baklava and apple tea.

Several prominent faith leaders spoke during the evening, as well as Dr Shaheen Chaudhry, High Sheriff for Bristol.

Rizwan Ahmed gave a whistle stop guide to Islam Rizwan is a Muslim Chaplain. He has been an active member of the community for over 15 years now. He currently works for the Bristol Muslim Cultural Society (BMCS).

Muktyar Singh of the Sikh community did the same.

The Lord Mayor was accompanied by his wife Shilpi.

One of the key points of discussion was the process of organ donation which brought up some concerns from the Sikh members of the group. The Lord Mayor has now planned to visit the Sikh temple with a Specialist Nurse Organ Donation where these concerns can be discussed and solutions found that Organ Donation can occur while observing rituals following death.”

Before the end of Cllr Choudhury' s term of office as Lord Mayor, it is intended that the local authority will sign a partnership agreement with NHS Blood and Transplant, at which point the Blood and Organ Campaign will become a formal element of the Lord Mayors official role, and will provide a figure head for the on-going campaign.

For any additional information please feel free to contact us.

Jacquie Spencer

Team Manager

South West Organ Donation Team

In this project we worked closely with:

The Lord Mayor of Bristol Faruk Choudhury

Zeeshan Asghar, Partnership Development Manager (NHSBT)

Jo Seddon and Caroline Rodaway, Donor Relations Co-ordinators (NHSBT)

Geraldine Parker, Lead Donor Relations Marketing Manager (NHSBT)

Farzana Saker, Chair Bristol Multi Faith Forum



