



# Moving Forward & Finding More

## THE WAY AHEAD

The *Face to Face and Side by Side Framework*, in line with *Strong and Prosperous Communities* hopes to see more local inter-faith activity in every local authority and strategic partnership.

Building Block Three, in *The Face to Face and Side*, advises the following in relation to structures and processes which support dialogue and social action<sup>1</sup>.

Exploring how regional and local organisations can work together to:

- *Strengthen existing ways of bringing people together within local communities and supporting the development of formal and informal structures and processes where these do not yet exist.*
- *Ensure that structures are effective in engaging a broad cross section of people from within the local community and result in real and positive change.*

It also has some guidance for local authorities<sup>2</sup>.

- *Find out what faith and multi faith structures exist in your area. As far as possible do this through the faith communities themselves.*
- *Aim to use the process to build your capacity to engage and also that of the faith communities. If you use an external consultant, choose one that will develop capacity rather than just produce a list.*
- *Ensure that you are sharing information across the range of faith and multi faith structures in your area. Encourage these structures to disseminate this information widely.*
- *Raise the profile of local structures with key partners you are working with, for example, local businesses and voluntary sector organisations.*
- *Find out what the structure of leadership of multi faith groups is. Ensure that local authority officers know who to contact and have the skills and confidence to do this.*
- *Ensure that officials who lead on working with faith communities are members of their regional faith links. Use this link to help you work in partnership with your local community.*
- *Ensure that local partnership structures are working with local inter faith forums and with local communities.*

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<sup>1</sup> Face to Face & Side by Side: p.64

<sup>2</sup> Face to Face & Side by Side: p.126

- *Clearly and openly define your expectations of and commitment to local structures for engagement with faith communities. Engage in dialogue with them to establish this.*

## A VIBRANT FAITH FORUM

The Regional Faith Forums (RFFs), like SEEFF, have a vital part in this. The information and guidance offered in this report provides a good foundation on which to take forward Building Block Three of this work.

The religious literacy study, *Understanding Each Other*, will be most helpful in developing relations between civic bodies and faith bodies, and within them

The other parts, *Celebrating Difference and Diversity* and *Strategic Partnerships & Faith-Links*, provide a great deal of useful information and insights from across the South East faith and strategic partnership sector.

A good starting point for SEEFF, and the encouragement and support it can provide, might be to concentrate on those places where there are no Faith-Links or Inter-Faith Networks . SEEFF could enable them to benefit from sharing the good practice available in other parts of the South East.

For SEEFF to become an even more effective RFF for the South East it will renew its governance and organisation. This “next stage” work of scoping, consultation and governance is in process with help from HM Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Details of this will be found in the SEEFF 2008-2011 Action Plan.

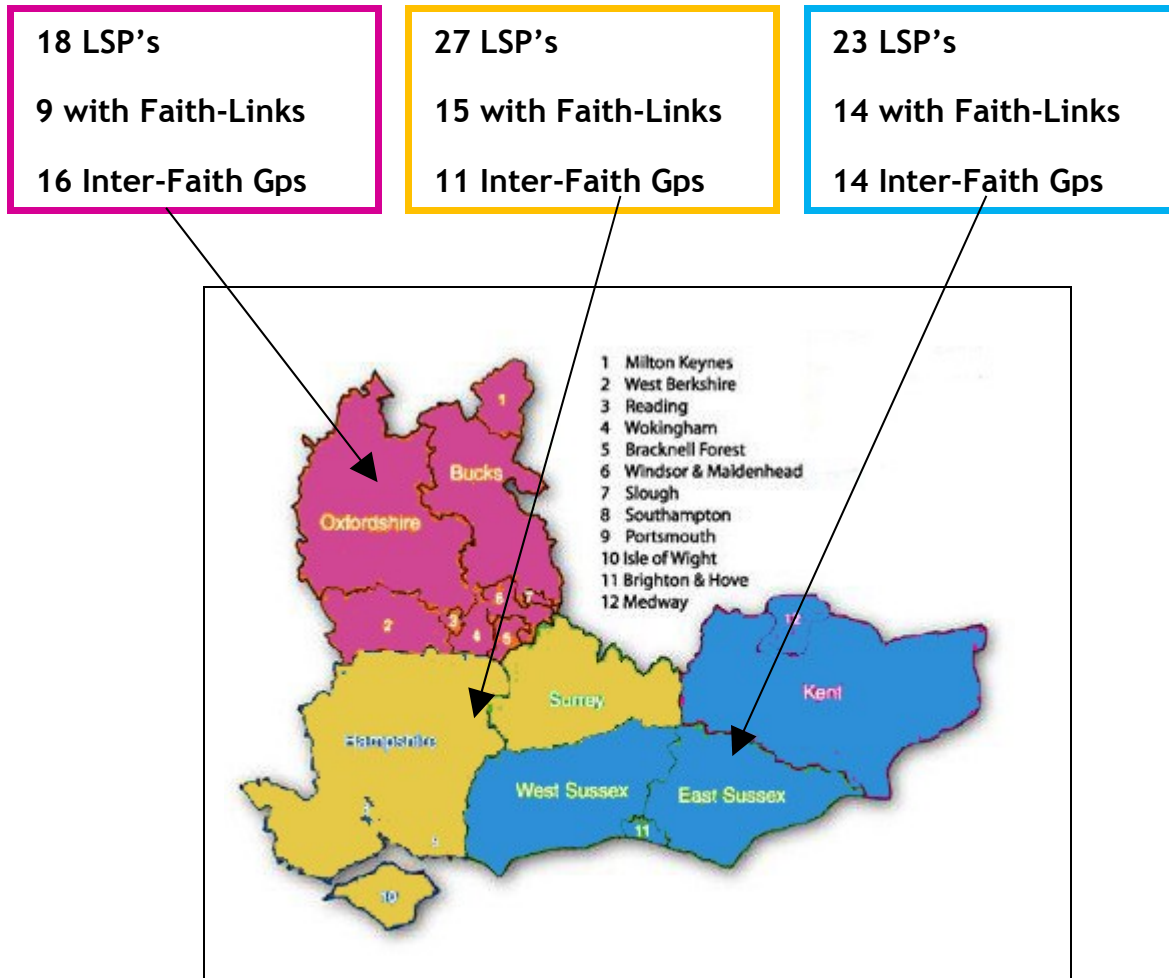
This “next stage” might consider having three sub-regional areas. Such an arrangement would help inter-action, support and the development of new work more manageable across the large and very varied area of the South East.

The following is a possible sub-regional area configuration showing the strategic partnership and inter-faith constituencies in each.

SEEFF SUB-REGIONAL AREAS

- **Thames Valley** – Bucks, Oxon and “Berks” with Unitaries
- **Centre** - Hampshire & IOW and Surrey with Unitaries
- **East** – Kent and West and East Sussex with Unitaries

Suggested Sub-Regional groupings that would facilitate the possibility of closer inter-relating and joint action of faith partnerships and with other agencies.



**SEEFF SUB-REGIONS: SP's FAITH-LINKS & INTER-FAITH GROUPS**

**THE THAMES VALLEY SUB-REGION**

COUNTY COUNCIL	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire Strategic Partnership		Bucks Forum of Faith
Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire Partnership	Bede Gerrard	

UNITARY AUTHORITIES	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes LSP	Revd. Olabiyi Ajala	Inter-Faith MK (Milton Keynes) Milton Keynes Council of Faiths
West Berkshire	West Berkshire Partnership	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Reading	Reading 2020 Partnership		Reading Inter-Faith Group Reading Faith Forum
Wokingham	Wokingham Borough Strategic Partnership	Revd. David Hodgson	Wokingham Borough Inter-Faith Group
Bracknell Forest	Bracknell Forest Partnership		
Windsor & Maidenhead	The Royal Borough Partnership (Windsor & Maidenhead)		Maidenhead Inter-Faith Windsor & Maidenhead Community Forum Eton Three Faiths Forum & Eton Faiths Forum
Slough	Slough Focus		Slough Faith Partnership

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Oxford	Oxford Strategic Partnership	Currently no Faith-Link Person	Oxford Abrahamic Group <i>(ceased to function)</i> Oxford Round Table of Religions (ORTR) Oxford Council of Faiths
Cherwell	Cherwell Community Planning Partnership	A temporary appointment	Banbury Area Religious Education Centre Inter-Faith Group
South Oxon	South Oxfordshire Partnership	Rt. Revd. Colin Fletcher <i>(Chair of SOP)</i>	
Vale of the White Horse	Vale Partnership	Revd. John Robertson	
West Oxon	West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership	Penny Joyce	
Aylesbury	Aylesbury Vale LSP	Revd. David Jenkins	Aylesbury Inter-Faith Network
Chiltern	Chiltern Community Partnership		
South Bucks	South Bucks Partnership	Revd. Brian Griffiths	
Wycombe	Wycombe Partnership		Wycombe Sharing of Faiths

## THE CENTRAL SUB-REGION

COUNTY COUNCIL	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Hampshire	Hampshire Strategic Partnership	Currently no Faith-Link Person	Hampshire Inter-Faith Network Hants & Dorset Branch Three Faiths Forum
Surrey	Surrey Strategic Partnership	Revd. Canon Chris Rich	Surrey Inter-Faith Friendship Group Surrey Three Faiths Forum

UNITARY AUTHORITIES	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Portsmouth	Portsmouth LSP	Taki Jaffer	Portsmouth Inter-Faith Forum
Southampton	Southampton Partnership	Currently no Faith-Link Person	Southampton Council of Faiths (SCOF) Southampton Inter-Faith Link (SIFL)
Isle of Wight	Island Strategic Partnership	Venerable Caroline Baston	

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Basingstoke & Deane	Basingstoke & Deane LSP	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Eastleigh	Eastleigh Strategic Partnership	Allan Cox	
East Hampshire	East Hampshire Community Partnership		
Fareham	Network Fareham	Revd. Frank Wright	
Gosport	Gosport Partnership	Revd. John Draper	
Hart	Hart LSP		

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Havant	Havant Community Partnership	Revd. Robin Hine	
New Forest	Changing Lives: New Forest LSP	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Rushmoor	Rushmoor Strategic Partnership	Revd. Canon David Tonkinson	
Test Valley	Test Valley Partnership	Revd. Dr. Derek Overfield	
Winchester	Winchester District Strategic Partnership	Beth Taylor	
Elmbridge	Elmbridge Community Partnership	Nabil Mustapha	Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum
Epsom & Ewell	Epsom & Ewell LSP		
Guildford	Guildford LSP	Tony Oakden	Guildford Inter-Faith Forum
Runnymede	Runnymede LSP	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Spelthorne	Spelthorne LSP	Simon Fraser	
Reigate & Banstead	Reigate & Banstead LSP	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Mole Valley	Mole Valley LSP		
Surrey Heath	Surrey Heath LSP	Revd. Mark Chester	
Tandridge	Tandridge LSP	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Waverley	Waverley LSP	Nasir Virji	
Woking	Window on Woking		Woking Multi-Faith Group Woking People of Faith

**THE EAST SUB-REGION**

COUNTY COUNCIL	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
East Sussex	East Sussex Strategic Partnership	Ian Chisnall	Council for Religious Harmony - Sussex
West Sussex	West Sussex Strategic Partnership	Ian Chisnall	Sussex Faith Forum ( <i>in abeyance</i> ) Faiths in Sussex
Kent	Kent Partnership	Rt. Revd. Stephen Venner	

UNITARY AUTHORITIES	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Brighton & Hove	2020 Community Strategy (Brighton & Hove)		Brighton & Hove Inter-Faith Contact Group
Medway	Medway LSP	Currently no Faith-Link Person ( <i>Very Revd. Adrian Newman a Board member</i> )	Medway Inter-Faith Action Forum (MIFA)

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DISTRICT AUTHORITIES	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	FAITH-LINK	INTER-FAITH GROUP
Eastbourne	Eastbourne Strategic Partnership	Martyn Relf & Monica Elsen	Eastbourne Faiths Forum
Hastings	Hasting LSP	Marian Povey	Hastings & District Inter-Faith Forum (HIFF)
Lewes	Lewes District LSP	Ian Chisnall	
Rother	Rother LSP	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Wealden	Wealden LSP	Ian Chisnall	
Adur	Adur in Partnership	Currently no Faith-Link Person	
Arun	Arun LSP	Seeking one rep for all faith groups	
Chichester	Chichester in Partnership	Ian Chisnall	Chichester Annual Gathering

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Crawley	Crawley Together	Currently no Faith-Link Person	Crawley Inter-Faith Network
Horsham	Horsham Community Partnership		Horsham Inter-Faith Forum
Mid Sussex	Mid Sussex LSP	Ian Chisnall	
Worthing	Worthing Together	Ian Richardson	Faith in Worthing
Ashford	Ashford LSP / East Kent LSP		
Thanet	<b>East Kent LSP</b> <i>(Canterbury, Dover, Shepway &amp; Thanet)</i>	Venerable Sheila Watson	Thanet Inter-Faith Council
Canterbury			Canterbury & District Inter-Faith Action (CANDIFA)
Dover			
Shepway			
Dartford	<b>Kent Thameside LSP</b> <i>(Gravesham &amp; Dartford)</i>		North Kent Inter-Faith Relations Council
Gravesham			Thames Gateway Women's Multi-Faith Forum
Maidstone	Maidstone LSP	John Cunningham	
Swale	Swale LSP	Revd. David Ramsay	
Sevenoaks	<b>West Kent Partnership</b> <i>(Sevenoaks / Tonbridge &amp; Malling / Tunbridge Wells)</i>	Tony Cornfield	
Tonbridge & Malling			
Tunbridge Wells			

## FURTHER SURVEYS

An over-view of Faith in the South East indicates that there are a huge number of faith groups and organisations, mostly all locally rooted, but with wider connections (regional, national and global).

The Christian Faith alone, in the South East, is covered by eight Church of England Dioceses, four Roman Catholic Dioceses, two Baptist Associations, three Methodist Districts, three Salvation Army Divisions and two United Reformed Church Synods.

The region has a Churches Together body for each County and in most localities.

There are also many independent churches – Brethren, Charismatic , Free Evangelical, New Wine, Quaker, Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventist, - some of which are associated into bodies such as New Frontier Churches. Across the region there are several thousand local churches.

Additionally there are other Christian Sects and local congregations and gatherings of other faiths.

This study has listed, under the Inter-Faith activities, the following: Ahmadiyya, Baha'i, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhist, Christian (all denominations and independent), Christian Scientist, Hare Krishna, Hindu, Humanist, Jain, Jewish, Mormon - Latter-day Saints, Muslim, Nirankari, Pagan, Quaker, Sikh, Unificationist, Unitarian, Zoroastrian, Organisations related to faith, e.g. Musica Sacra, Universal Peace Federation.

As well as those itemised in this report there are many more “faith-based” organisations. For example:

Chaplaincies (most of which are multi-faith) with hospitals, prisons, universities, colleges, as well as in public service (e.g. emergency services and local authorities) business, commerce and industry.

There are faith-based schools and educational establishments.

There are faith-based charities working across generations and a variety of social and economic issues. (E.g. YMCA's, Children and Youth work, Housing Associations, Homelessness projects, After-care, etc.)

The range and scope is vast. A further study might map them.

The social and economic impact of “Faith” organisations and people and their contribution in the Region is also very large, and mostly “hidden” and unrecognised. This will be researched and measured in a forthcoming study, sponsored by SEEDA (South East England Economic Development Agency), being undertaken by Goldsmith’s College, University of London.

*“Faith ... the enduring ability to imagine life as it might be”*

## FINDING MORE

A main source of information for the South East is the SEEFF Website, [www.se-faithforum.net](http://www.se-faithforum.net) with links to other sites of Regional bodies and Inter-Faith organisations.

This Study, Connecting Faith in the South East, has provided information for a database. This contains contact details for:

Strategic Partnerships & Faith Links

Inter-Faith Groups and Networks with their “Four Block” activities

Main Religious bodies in the South East.

This information will also be found in the five sections of this study.

Comprehensive Information about most Religions will be found on the BBC website:

[www.bbc.co.uk/religion/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/) There is a list of most religions and also a multi-faith calendar.