

Mosaic West Midlands Regional Leadership Group

Chairmen

Najma Hafeez – Managing Director, Russell Excel Ltd



Najma Hafeez is Managing Director of Russell Excel, a firm of international consultants specialising in management training, education, communication and leadership skills, human resources and change management. Ms Hafeez was the youngest and first Muslim woman elected to Birmingham City Council in 1983. During her years in office, she held several senior positions including, Chair of Education, Chair of Social Services, Chair of Community Affairs and Chair of Euro-Cities Network. As an elected member and member of the executive team of Birmingham City Council, Ms Hafeez was involved in the development of Birmingham City's regeneration programme, including the building of the International Convention Centre, Brindley Place, Millennium Point and other key projects, all of which have revitalised the city and its economic and commercial potential.

Members

Nasir Rafiq - Director of Quality Assurance, Haines Watts (Vice-Chairman)



Nasir trained as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG and PwC in the Government sector and is currently employed by Haines Watts, where he is Director of Quality Assurance. Nasir was previously with FTSE 100 giant Compass Group plc as a Group Internal Auditor. In KPMG and PwC, Nasir organised and led Islamic Society activities within the Midlands region and in 2007 represented KPMG in the steering group of BITC's ProHelp campaign in the Midlands region. Nasir is an advisor to national and local Muslim charities with international operations. Nasir graduated from Leicester University with a BA (Hons) in Business Economics; he was also President of the Islamic Society at the University in 1999 and 2000 where he successfully turned the Society into a major force within the Students Union. Nasir's primary education was in London and his secondary education was in Pakistan, obtaining his BA in Economics and politics in Urdu from Punjab University, Lahore.

Dr Mashuq Ally – Head of Equality and Diversity, Birmingham City Council



Dr Mashuq Ally was appointed Head of Equality and Diversity for Birmingham City Council in May 2005. He is also the Operational Lead in the City Council for Community Cohesion and Vice Chairman of Birmingham Reducing Gang Violence (BRGV) as well as the Lead for Tackling Extremism. Dr Ally has a long career in equalities. Before coming to work in Birmingham he was the first Head of the Commission for Racial Equality in Wales. He has also been Director of the South East Wales Racial Equality Council and advised the National Assembly for Wales on its Race Equality programme. Dr Ally, before taking formal posts in equalities, has a long career in Higher Education where he was Senior Lecturer and the Dean for the Faculty of Arts in the University of Wales, Lampeter where he was also Director for the Centre of Islamic Studies. Dr Ally also has a long history working in the not-for-profit area where he has been involved in the establishment of a number of voluntary sector bodies, such as the National Association of Asian Youth and the Newport Equalities and Citizenship Council. Dr Ally has extensive experience in Inter Faith work, particularly in the formation of the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian – Muslim Relations, when it was at Selly Oak Colleges. He was involved in the Jewish-Christian-Muslim Standing Conference and established the Inter-Faith Council for Wales. He has been a regular contributor to BBC Wales Weekend Word and for sometime a contributor to the BBC World Service on faith matters.

David Darlaston



David joined Business in the Community in 1995 to develop a network of Business Groups across Birmingham. Working with diverse businesses from large plc's to traders and micro businesses he helped to develop collective strategies to aid local economic growth and influence local delivery of business support services from partner agencies. This included developing regional regeneration strategies for West Midlands and focusing on strategies to assist communities develop and promote economic growth across the region. Between 1997 and 1999 David established Business in the Community's presence in the Black Country which continues today. During this time he was a member of Sandwell Regeneration Partnership and a founder member of the ABCD New Deal Partnership. Appointed Deputy Regional Director in 1999, David was responsible for establishing BITC's presence in the west of the region before being appointed Regional Director in 2001. Working with representatives of the 800 members of Business in the Community to positively improve their impacts on society in the workplace, market place, community and environment. The region now has a presence in Stoke, Hereford, Wolverhampton, Coventry and Birmingham. David drafted the Better Together Business Charter menu together with colleagues from Birmingham Council. The Charter is a partnership with the City, Birmingham Chamber, Business in the Community, Birmingham Forward and Connexions and has 300 companies pledged to activity. Since then the Charter has been adopted in Stoke, Coventry, Poole, Lincoln, Croydon, London and Plymouth. In 2003 David was appointed to the National Partnership Group in Business in the Community to promote partnership development across the organisation building on the work of Better Together in Birmingham. From March 2005 till Nov 2006 David represented Business in the Community on the board of CSR Europe, the pan-European Corporate responsibility body. He also represented the twenty three other National Partner organisations in Europe on the CSR Board. David is a member of the Corporation of Stourbridge College and Chair of the Tipton Education Fund and Chair of Groundwork Black Country. He is a member of the Regional Ministers Task

Group, Regional Economic Inclusion Panel and the Regional Equality and Diversity Partnership. David is married with 3 children, plays hockey, enjoys many sports and lives in Kingswinford.

Abid Hussain – Diversity Officer, Arts Council



Abid Hussain is a Diversity Officer at Arts Council England the national development agency for the arts working in the West Midlands office. Abid is the lead officer for the organisation's faith and the arts programme which includes Arts and Islam platform a unique series of seminars, debates and artistic interventions to increase Muslim engagement in the Arts. The programme has toured across the UK, Denmark, Sweden and the United States of America. Abid is also the Chair of the Arts Council's National Black Workers Group and regional lead for the Disability Equality Scheme in the West Midlands. Outside of work Abid is a governor at Anderton Park Primary School in Birmingham, a sports enthusiast and a passionate advocate for the work of Mosaic in the West Midlands.

Adnaan Saif - Director, Urban Living



Adnan is currently Director of Knowledge Transfer Initiative Ltd, an international consultancy firm in development and local government. Prior to this, he spent almost 20 year in senior positions in Local Government and Voluntary Organisations specialising in regeneration and economic development. Adnan served on the boards of a number of relevant bodies including, School Organisation Committees, School Governing Bodies, Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and many others