



Middlesbrough Interfaith Network Terms of Reference

1. Purpose and background

The purpose of the Middlesbrough Interfaith Network (MIN) is to bring together representatives from different religions in Middlesbrough in order to:

- Raise awareness of different religions and beliefs between the faith communities and service providers/service users.
- Share knowledge and expertise to promote greater community cohesion.
- Contribute to the consultation and engagement process in order to improve the Council's services, including education, social care, social justice, and the environment.
- Service as a forum to share best practice and take a joint approach to problem solving.
- Share intelligence and knowledge relating to policy changes and service delivery.
- Contribute to the Local Resilience Forum in relation to responses to emergency situations through the Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager.

2. Remit of MIN

The MIN will need to be mindful that:

- Political rhetoric will not be considered or discussed.
- All varying religious views will be tolerated and listened to.
- Links set up between various partners and services maintain their effectiveness.
- Issues discussed are within the remit of the group.
- Confidentiality must be maintained.

3. Chairing

The MIN is chaired by Middlesbrough Council's Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager.

4. Frequency of Meetings

MIN meetings will be held for two hours bi-monthly. Themed discussions will be held at each meeting to provide learning opportunities of services.

5. Membership and Participation

Membership of the MIN will consist of representatives of the current Middlesbrough faith organisations.

Members are asked to complete a contact sheet that outlines their role and provides information and support to colleagues outside of meetings.

Members will be asked to provide a calendar of religious events and celebration to share between colleagues and communities outside of meetings.



6. Agenda

Each MIN meeting will be themed according to requests of members. Themes will be set in advance.

A standard agenda item will be for all members to provide an update of their faith organisation and activities.

Members are able to request particular agenda items to be added through Middlesbrough Council's Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager.

7. Review of Terms of Reference

These terms of reference will be reviewed every two years.