

Essex Faith Covenant Steering Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Essex Faith Covenant Steering Group (EFCSG) is:

- To encourage public and voluntary services work collectively across Essex with faith based organisation to ensure the principles and commitments set out with the Faith Covenant are met
- To encourage the joint priority of tackling loneliness, isolation and disadvantage across the pilot areas is taken forward, improving outcomes for those most in need
- To enable the expansion of new signatories to the Essex Faith Covenant.

Responsibilities

Key responsibilities will include:

- Overseeing of Faith Covenant activity within the pilot areas, paying particular attention to the current 'theme' around which activity is being developed ('Tackling Loneliness, Isolation & Disadvantage')
- Organising an annual Faith Covenant event, and making suggestions regarding activity theming
- Expanding the reach of the Faith Covenant to new signatories
- Ensuring effective and timely communication and marketing to advance the principles of the Faith Covenant
- Working with key community, voluntary, and statutory partners to build stronger communities

Decision making and accountability

There will be no formal decision making processes. All activity that takes place will be voluntary on the part of members and agreed by consensus. The FCSG will be accountable to the Essex Leaders and Chief Executives Group

Working groups will be established, where appropriate to take forward specific pieces of work that are time limited and which advance the principles set out within the Faith Covenant.

V1: 08/11/2017

V2: 14/11/2017

V3: 04/07/2018

Theme

The current theme around which activity is being developed is 'Tackling Loneliness Isolation & Disadvantage'. This theme will be the priority for the Partnership to work on for 2 years from June 2018, within which period activity should be planned and progress towards objectives should be measured.

Membership

There will be no formal mechanism by which to appoint membership, nor there a cap on the number of members appointed to the group. Adequate representation will be measured informally, and the group will develop naturally to fill any gaps.

Meeting frequency and locations

The Essex Faith Covenant Steering group will meet three times a year. Meetings will be arranged by the current chair. Meetings will be rotated across Essex.

Chairing responsibilities

The group will be independent from any single organisation, collectively 'owned' by its members. Chairing responsibilities will rotate on an annual basis, selected from the EFCSG membership at the first meeting of each year, with chairing duties to commence at the second meeting of each year.

Secretarial role

This will be undertaken by the Chair and their respective organisation.