

April – June 2021 Edition: 002

"Working Towards A Better Future"



Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM) has continued to be the most widely recognised and pro-active Bolton Muslim organisation for more than two decades. BCoM continues to play a vital role in its advocacy for civil liberties, interfaith relations, social harmony and promotion of mental and physical wellbeing. The past year has been extremely difficult and challenging for all, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In these trying times BCoM has stood firm in supporting and helping those most in need across Bolton. It has delivered a plethora of much needed support and services to both the Muslim and non-Muslim population of Bolton.

Content

- 1. BCoM Team
- 2. BCoM Affiliate Mosques
- 3. BCoM Vision, Mission & Aims
- 4. Foreword
- 5. BCoM Hospital Visits
- 6. BCoM Funeral Service
- 7. BCoM Stands strong in support of the Bolton Council
- 8. BCoM & the Community NHS Antenatal Clinic Launch
- 9. BCoM & a new Circumcision Clinic
- 10. BCoM Counselling Service
- 11. BCoM and what to look forward to
- 12. BCoM congratulates its staff



BCoM Executive Board

Asif Patel Chairman Imteyaz Ali Secretary Faisal Rai Treasurer Wajid Khan
Executive Board
Member

BCoM Staff

Saeed Mohammed Akuji Funeral Director

Shahnaz Patel Female Funeral Lead Rowshonara Sardar Female Workskills & Youth Worker

Maulana Yunus Mohammed Counsellor Roohi Hashmi & Taslim Khan Admin Workers

Ahmed Ali Site Supervisor BCOM

Bolton Council of Mosques

Our Affiliate Mosques

If you would like to affiliate a mosque with BCoM, contact us on 01204 363680

Abu Bakr Mosque

Ahl Al Sunnah Mosque

Aisha Mosque

Al Aqsa Mosque

Aleef Mosque

Al Falah

Ali Mosque

Al Rahman Mosque

Ashrafia Mosque

At Towfiq Islamic & Cultural

Charity

Azhar Academy

Darul Quran Mosque

Darul Uloom Mosque

Ghosia Mosque

Ibraheem Mosque

Imaan Mosque

Jamia Alvia Mosque

Madina (Old) Mosque

Madina (New) Mosque

Makkah Mosque

Makki Mosque

M.A Mission Mosque

Markaz E Alebait

Noor Mosque

Noor ul Islam Mosque

Quba Mosque

Sughra Mosque

Salaam Mosque

Taiyabah Mosque

Taqwa Mosque

Usman Mosque

Umer Mosque

Ummah Mosque

Zakariyya Mosque

BCOM Vision, Mission & Aims Bolton Council of Mosques







BCoM Vision

To develop a successful, confident, and self-aware Muslim community that positively contributes to the economic, social, spiritual and civic life in Bolton

Our Mission

To develop the framework for addressing the issues affecting Muslims in Bolton through effective partnership working, promoting social unity, tolerance, and respect amongst the residence of Bolton. We will strive to consult/refer, contribute, help develop, and where needed, deliver services that meet the needs of the communities residing in Bolton.

Our Aims

Strengthen Muslim Engagement in Bolton Local Authority wider vision

To identify and address the social, economic, spiritual needs of the Mosques and Muslim Communities

To positively contribute to social equality and create awareness within the Muslim communities of cultural and social differences in order to promote tolerance and respect for all

To actively promote unity, harmony, and cohesion amongst all Bolton

Foreword

BCOM Bolton Council of Mosques

In the past three months, since the last BCoM Quarterly Newsletter, Bolton has been at the forefront of our national news headlines; through our national newspapers and tv broadcastings. Unfortunately this, was all un welcomed news which we could have done without. After more than a year of COVID-19 restrictions and many a false dawn, Bolton was back to a recently familiar juncture of COVID positive

cases at an exponential rise.
BCoM worked tirelessly in
communications with the Local
Authority, with continued
deliberations, working in
tandem to do 'whatever it took'
to kerb the rise in positive cases
and to provide every
opportunity to Boltonians to
self-test and keep safe. BCoM
mobilised its workforce to hand
deliver thousands of self-test
kits and relevant guidelines to
mosques and community hubs

to ensure people remained observant of potential symptoms and take relevant steps to ensure their own safety and the safety of others around them. As the hospital in-patients increased during this dire period, BCoM continued to support Muslim patients and their families at home, through our dedicated volunteers who were permitted by the hospital to visit such patients. The patients were all gifted Quran Cubes in order for them to seek solace in the listening of some Quran recitation or through the listening of an Islamic Nasheed. They were also provided with pastoral care and messages from the patients to loved ones at home, and vice-versa were promptly conveyed. The funeral service once again, provided essential support and service to those bereaved. The Admin Staff whilst working from the BCoM office or from home, remained accessible to signpost people to relevant help and support available, whether at BCoM itself or to

external agencies. The counselling service remained busy providing much needed therapeutic support to people from all over the nation.

BCoM is immensely proud to announce a new partnership with the NHS Trust to provide an antenatal clinic in the hub of the community. This, we hope will be a first of many such services, where BCoM will work hand-in-hand with the NHS Trust and the Local Authority to provide relevant services to community, in the community, at the point of need, with cultural sensitivities catered for. There are some really exciting Summer activities being planned, both for parents and young ones, so stay tuned to BCoM broadcasts and watch this space.

Finally, the Executive Board at BCoM cannot be prouder of all of its staff and volunteers. We honestly believe our strength is through your hard work and dedication. Please keep this up.

Asif Patel Chairman



Hospital Visits

We are here for you in the most trying times

We are all aware that hospital visits to provide support to our loved-ones hospitalised, has been restricted all across the country, in line with Government Guidelines. We all know, hospital visits, according to viable research, boosts morale, and provides comfort and relief for patients. It also appears the anxiety and worry of those left at home.

Since April 2020, BCoM has worked tirelessly through its dedicated volunteers to ensure that people from the Muslim Community, who have been hospitalised due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been regularly visited by our volunteers (*who have permission from the hospital administration*) and relevant information about their recovery is conveyed to loved ones at home.

This has been one of the most rewarding projects throughout this pandemic in allaying the mental distress of both the patients and loved ones at home.

BCoM has carried out more than 250 such visits to patients this quarter, donated Quran Cubes and distributed ample ZamZam water to patients.

As a protocol, each visit would be followed up with a call to families at home to ensure they are kept well-informed about their loved-ones in hospital. **Thank you to those volunteers who made this possible.**







We are there with you at your most vulnerable time...

BCoM Funeral Service has conducted fifty two funerals since the last quarterly magazine. Our Funeral Director along with BCoM dedicated Funeral Service Volunteers are with the bereaved family at every step of this very difficult time. It is the empathy and dedication to this work by those involved that BCoM was recognised with the Wesley Media Award in 2018. The Funeral Service is there for you:

- 1. Providing guidance to the bereaved family in having the body released from the hospital, purchasing the burial plot and with the death certificate
- 2. Helping with organising the bathing of the deceased, shrouding, prayers and burial of the deceased.
- 3. Announcing all Muslim deaths in Bolton so people can make arrangements to attend prayers
- 4. Providing the Funeral Van for all journeys to the mosque and the graveyard for the deceased.
- 5. Providing support with our counselling service after the burial





When Covid cases were peaking...

BCoM stands strong in support of our Bolton Council

During the best part of April and May 2021, Bolton was in the news for all the wrong reasons. The COVID -19 positive cases were exponentially rising and far exceeding the national trends.

BCoM stood up to be counted alongside the Local Authority to support and assist as much as possible. Bolton Council of Mosques through its dedicated workers and volunteers delivered the following;

- 1. Mobilised its workforce to distribute two and a half thousand self-test kits to the Muslim Community in Bolton in this time period.
- 2. Distributed information leaflets, in multiple languages to Muslims in Bolton, about Government and local guidelines to remain safe.
- 3. Kept the Muslim Community informed of the latest information from the Government and the Local Authority about the virus, through our Affiliated Mosques and Social Media platforms.

It is such collaborative work that sees Bolton, now out of danger and its COVID-19 positive cases plummeting in a very short period of time.





Bolton Midwives Team up with **B**



BCoM is extremely excited and proud to have teamed up with the Bolton Midwives to deliver a new service from our premises on Vicarage Street.

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust's Community Midwife Team will launch its antenatal clinic from BCoM.

These antenatal clinic drop-in sessions will run twice a week. The service will primarily cater for those women whose first language is not English but will be open to women from all ethnic backgrounds too.

The drop-ins will provide the women an opportunity to ask about,

- Preparation for labour
- Diet in pregnancy
- General well-being during pregnancy

There will be an antenatal clinic where women will attend their antenatal appointments throughout the duration of their pregnancy.

BCoM is hoping to have many more such services available to the BAME community in the heart of the communities, so watch this space.

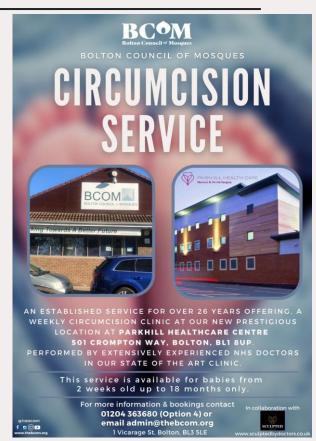


BCOM Teams up with a new Circumcision Clinic

BCoM is forever working tirelessly to improve its offer to the Muslim Community and other communities in Bolton. It is for this reason, we are very happy to announce a new partnership with Parkhill Healthcare Centre, Bolton, who have nearly a quarter of a century's experience in providing a circumcision service to Muslims. The facilities they have are of the highest and latest quality.

BCoM's main reason for partnering with Parkhill Healthcare Centre is their expertise and the value for money they will offer the Muslim community and others who may need such a service.

For further details and bookings, you may contact the BCoM office on 01204 363680, Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm.



BCOM Counselling Service

BCoM Counselling Service has gradually commenced its in person, one to one support and service for all Boltonians. However, it will continue its virtual counselling offer too, for those who are still classed as vulnerable under the COVID-19 quidelines.

BCoM Counselling Service is a member of the British Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP) and all its counsellors are qualified to a degree level to provide such an intervention.

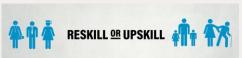
The service is free for all and has been since its inception in 2007. The service is unique in the North West because of its understanding of the cultural and religious sensitivities of its clients. BCoM Counselling Service has clients from all over the country. In the last couple of months, it has catered for clients from as far away as Luton, Dewsbury and Blackburn, along with clients from Bolton. It prides itself on adherence to the BACP Code of Ethics, confidentiality and professionalism in its delivery.

If you know someone who may benefit from this service, contact us on 01204 363680 or email us on admin@thebcom.org



BC Mand what to look forward to







Parenting Positively

Summer Youth Activities:

- Excursions to theme parks and activities
- Core subject tuitions as part of our 'catchup' after COVID-19 disruptions
- > Parenting Skills Workshops
- Developing Resilient Marital Relationships Workshops
- Developing Confidence for women sessions
- Working with parents to resolve familial conflicts



BCoM is immensely proud of all its staff and volunteers who go above and beyond what is asked of them and what is expected of them. It is this 'working together' attitude to achieving our goals and fulfilling our mission that has enabled BCoM to continue to grow into the organisation it is today.

In the last two months, others who have used some of our services at BCoM have nominated BCoM itself and some of our members of staff for the National Diversity Award 2021. This is an annual event in which positive role models community organisations are honoured and recognised for their work. We appreciate this nomination and endeavor to continue making Boltonians proud of our work.



Congratulations to BCoM Nominees