

Hazel Blears praising CP

Dear Brian,

I have just found THIS - Hazel Blears praising CP, read it for yourself, unbelievable,

www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/communities/preventingviolentextremismnext
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"...We are boosting our support for the Community Leadership Fund to £1.2m, nearly double what it is today.

This will provide leadership training and advocacy courses to enable new people, including women and the young, speak out and shape the future of their communities.

Already we've seen great projects get off the ground - like Common Purpose's training programmes for emerging Muslim leaders. 50 people have now been on the course. One participant welcomed it as a way for new Muslim leaders to;

"...begin to understand, trust and most important engage with civil society not as a tolerated minority but a contributing equal".

Or MOSAIC Muslim Mentoring Scheme, encouraging young men and women to aim high for their future in Lancaster, Leicester, London and Yorkshire. I went to the launch event last year - 8 months on I'm pleased to hear stories like Salwa's, who said:

"It is especially encouraging to learn that someone from the same background as me can be really successful and reach the top of their profession by working hard work and being enthusiastic."

I've also met the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group several times now, including earlier this week. They have now formulated a clear idea of what they want to achieve over the next year and I'm looking forward to them: telling the stories of inspirational women; improving the theological understanding of women's role in society: and encouraging more women to get involved in their community as councillors, school governors, or volunteers.

I'm also looking forward to the new Young Muslims' Advisory Group getting

up and running later this year. They will speak directly to national policymakers, helping us get a full picture of what is happening on the ground and how it is affecting young people. We are looking for bright, articulate and energetic people with the skills and confidence to shape their communities. The call for nominations closes soon so if you know someone who fits the bill, don't hesitate.

But communities need to know that they have the support of civic leaders too.

Over the next three years we will be providing £45m to support grassroots groups building resilience to violent extremists' messages.

This is a big increase. In two years' time annual funding will reach £18m, triple what it has been this past year.

Now I want to see real ambition from local authorities about what they can help communities achieve.

This isn't an optional add-on for councils, but a core part of what they should be doing for the people they serve....."

Best wishes, Lisa.