

## Press Note

London, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013

On Thursday, 6th July 2013, at the Davenant Centre, London, the Muslim Professionals Forum (MPF) held its launch event for the Professional Careers Mentoring Scheme (PCMS). Many prominent professionals attended the event as well as students from across the borough. Guests and mentors included Baroness Uddin, Zaheer Ahmed MBE President National Association of Muslim Police, Stephen Heath barrister at Tanfied Chambers, Carol Adams, Khudeza Ahmed and Gillian Rombach of the Tower Hamlets Careers Centre, Shazia Khan of A.H. Page Solicitors, Taj Uddin of Ernst & Young Global Ltd, Dr Mashuk Uddin as well as professionals from many other sectors. MPF Chairperson Mohammed Khaled Noor presides over the meeting and conducted by PCMS Co-coordinators Fayeka Chowdury and Lima Ahmed.

The event saw the launch of an exciting project for MPF, which has recognised that college students within Tower Hamlets would benefit from professionals to mentor them through a fundamental stage of their lives. The aim of this project is to link students with mentors in professions that they are interested in, providing them with a valuable opportunity to gain insight and knowledge that would otherwise not be readily available to them.

The project targets students who are in their first year of college from Tower Hamlets, many of whom are from ethnic minority groups and disadvantaged backgrounds and therefore will not have had access to a spectrum of successful professionals as role models. Selected schools were asked to identify students who they believe are capable and could benefit immensely from this event - amongst the schools that attended the launch event, included Mulberry School for Girls, Jamiatul Ummah and Bishop Challoner.

The aim of the event was to provide students with the opportunity to hear about the experiences and challenges faced by the professionals and encourage the students to consider what their career goals should be.

The event benefitted significantly from the assistance of members of the Tower Hamlets Careers Centre who helped the students to consider alternative career paths available to them should they not wish to study at university.

### Note:

MPF is an independent and non-profit organisation that was established in 2008 and works with professionals from the private, public and voluntary sectors and organises seminars and discussion forums on topical issues on a regular basis.

The Professional Careers Mentoring Scheme (PCMS) is a project of the Muslim Professionals Forum (MPF). The PCMS hopes to bring students in year 12 from the Tower Hamlets borough together with established professionals.

### The aim of the PCMS are:

- to provide mentees with the opportunity to consider some of the careers paths available to them after study;
- to give mentees the opportunity to network with professionals who have done well in their chosen careers; and
- to help mentees gain an understanding of the different routes that can be taken before getting a job.

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