

Forum for Change gathering in Bristol, 16 October 2009

Forum for Change (F4C) is an excellent initiative facilitated by Evangelical Alliance which is beginning to be expressed regionally. A recent gathering in the Easton Christian Family Centre in Bristol was the second Forum for Change day in Bristol, bringing together five key people from each of the five 'change drivers' of society in the West of England (Business, Politics, Education, Arts and Media) plus also some key prayer networkers.

The idea was to encourage networking and dialogue both within each sphere and across the spheres, in order to spark fresh relationships, to encourage working together during the day, and action beyond. Steve Clifford, General Director of Evangelical Alliance, shared about his vision for Evangelical Alliance and Forum for Change. Anne Holt, a Director of the Bible Society, explained the aims of Forum for Change and the need for the strategic Change Drivers to bring "transformation" to society. Stewart Keiller spoke about the challenges of his role as Faith representative with Bath council and about Faith Audits which are taking place across the West of England, showing the contribution which Faith groups are making to their local communities.

Others interviewed across the five change drivers, included Ali Hull (Bristol Media hub), who spoke about the need to get good news stories into the local press and Bill Peters (International Christian Chamber of Commerce, www.iccc.net), who spoke about the Transforming Working Lives DVD. Trevor Cooling was interviewed about his project to encourage Christians to teach (www.transforminglives.org.uk). Dawnecia Palmer (Prayer Patrol) spoke about her involvement with police and council in Bristol. Finally, Luke Walton shared about The Pitch film making competition (www.enterthepitch.com)

Plenty of opportunity was given to chat and network within and across the different change drivers. Feedback from those who attended has been very encouraging, saying the event was "very well worthwhile", "very valuable" and "inspiring". It was a "really positive experience to be able to meet each other and find out what is going on across the region".

We look forward to seeing some more positive change as a result!

For more info see www.eauk.org/forumforchange

Steve Clifford's recorded talk in the evening www.bristolregionleaders.net