

## **Profile of Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE**

### **Reasons for Nomination:**

I am delighted to nominate Mr Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE for Award of Honorary Degrees, because of his outstanding contributions to community cohesion and to well-being of people who live in the communities here in Birmingham and West Midlands

### **As a chairman of New Hope Global:**

- Plays a key role as the founding member and Trustee of New Hope Global – a charity ran by passionate community activists who support and empower socially and economically disadvantaged, ethnic minority communities.
- Provides clear and strategic direction for financial sustainability and key project planning.
- Liaises directly with various local and national charities, which has resulted in extensive collaboration and highly beneficial relationships.
- Represents the charity in local communities and grant making bodies to highlight the important work the organisation does.
- Leverages personal Birmingham City Council experience; helping to address the mainstream service need gaps that third sector organisations must address.

### **Hearing Panel Member, The Cambian Group – Wolverhampton:**

- Joined the Hospital Managers Hearing Panel in April 2012, acting regularly as a panel member – sharing knowledge, skills and experience to make a conclusive decision for the enhancement by detaining patients under section of Mental Health Act 1983.
- Demonstrated a commitment to public service and a profound interest in mental health.
- Developed extensive experience of statutory and voluntary organisations whilst also gaining and maintaining a key understanding of impartiality, confidentiality and the sensitivity of the situation.
- Worked as a key member of this team, analysing and solving complex problems whilst also challenging situations in a sensitive and compassionate manner.

### **As a Non-Executive Director, R & K Accountants and Business Advisors:**

- Provided a creative contribution to the Board of Directors through the provision of objective criticism and advice.

- Played a key role, providing general guidance and a different perspective on matters of concern.
- Ensured that all objectives were met in a timely and professional manner.
- Provided the board with independent and objective advice on business issues.

**As an Equality & Community Engagement Officer, Birmingham City Council:**

- Provided extensive support to the Equality and Community Engagement Team's delivery of equality services to prescribed standards and to timetables, leading delivery within designated services areas.
- Deputised for the Equality and Community Engagement Team Leader and take any appropriate action and decisions as and when required.
- Adhered and interpreted any relevant legislation or statutory framework, ensuring full compliance within workplace.
- Ensured that management and service delivery are compliant with Birmingham City Council Equal Opportunities policy and that equality and diversity are a key business focus.
- Implemented and ensured that automotive Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit was utilised and that records were maintained to provide an effective audit trail in order to satisfy legislative requirements.
- Acted in a proactive and innovative manner in the delivery of equalities, community engagement and community cohesion.
- Successfully worked with teams within the council to set up structures to fully integrate equalities, support community engagement and promote community cohesion into the service planning process.
- Held full responsibility for ensuring that a high-quality service was provided to customers and other stakeholders in accordance with agreed service level standards.
- Maintained an awareness of changes in legislation, and external and internal drivers to ensure the continued provision of an effective service.
- Preserved a high degree of confidentiality in respect of personnel information in accordance with Birmingham City Council's Data Protection Policy.

**Some other responsibilities and achievements:**

- Developed stronger community links and networks for access to more effective service from the mainstream service providers.
- In addressing the barriers faced by the British Bangladeshi population here in this

country, including language, education, culture and mainstream employment such as NHS, Local Authority, police, Central Government and European Communities.

- Campaigned for the diversity of manpower amongst community's business ventures, such as real estates, cash and carry business, mortgage and financial advisors, pharmaceuticals, when previously the community was more suited to the Catering sector.
- Encouraged the British Bangladeshi population to obtain the knowledge, qualifications, skills and experiences necessary to establish themselves in their specific fields, such as NVQ Levels 1 and 2 for chefs and waiters.
- Prepared a substantial portion of new Settlement (spouse and families) arrivals for the New Life in the United Kingdom tests.
- Guided and facilitating employment for those with medicine background qualification from abroad, advising them to contact Professional Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) to gain General Medical Council (GMC) registration to practice in the United Kingdom as a qualified doctor.
- Recommended and advising the ethnic minority community to join the Social Service Care to improve the life of Senior Citizens within the British Civic society.
- Created pressure for the Local Authority and the Housing Associations to build new spacious houses in the inner-city areas to accommodate the large British Bangladeshi, and Ethnic Minorities families, as they are normally anxious to live in outer cities because they would miss their cultural and religious comforts.
- Reduced racial hate crime, gang, tension and improving community safety, by having frequent consultations, seminars, workshops and meetings with the relevant personnel and authorities, to install CCTV cameras and street cameras.
- Encouraged and increasing the public-sector workforce, through consultations with various public-sector authorities, agencies, stakeholders and partners, to employ more British Bangladeshi and other ethnic minority individuals, to help contribute to the British way of life.
- Empower and strengthen the British Bangladeshi community involvement and public participation, in the decision-making process within the City of Birmingham, the West Midlands Region, National and Internationally.

For more than three decades of service working for Birmingham City Council, Banking and Community Sector, he has obtained substantial knowledge, skill, ability and experience in:

- Community development Initiative.
- Community Cohesion.
- Community engagement.
- General management.
- Women empowerment
- Human & financial resources.
- Managing political sensitivity.
- Mediation, yoga and depression.
- Health and well-being.
- Soft Skills Development.
- Prevention of extremism.
- Project management.
- Policy development and implementation.
- Regeneration and interfaith development network.

As a City Council employee, Mohammed has undertaken various forms of in-house training including:

- Equal Opportunities.
- Financial Management.
- Fundraising.
- Health and Safety in the Workplace.
- Recruitment & Selection of Staff.
- Management Development for Asian and Afro Caribbean Employees.
- Political Sensitivity for Managers.
- Project Management Mediation for Managers.
- Word for Windows.
- Youth Employment imitative.
- Management and Leadership Development.
- Personal Resilience.

- Stress Awareness for Managers.
- Managing and Preparing Effective Meetings,

Mohammed has the ability to interpret economic, social, political, as well as government legislation, related information.

He has been working with people from grass-root levels to the wider organisational context of committees and elected representatives (locally, regionally, nationally and internationally).

Over the years he has worked with multi-cultural communities, living in Birmingham, Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Bradford, Cardiff, Swansea, Coventry, Leeds, Luton, London, Manchester, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Oldham, Rochdale, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

He has developed his knowledge, skills, experiences and understanding of these communities through his wider role as a community activist through his job as the Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh Council and Bangladesh Multi-purpose Centre in the Aston area of Birmingham including Chairman of New Hope Birmingham.

In addition, he has served as a Community Development Officer, Employment Development Officer, Policy Development & Implementation Officer, and Equality & Diversity Officer including Community Involvement Officer in Birmingham City Council. Currently he is serving as a Chairman New Hope Birmingham and School Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham.

Mohammed has used these knowledge, skills and experiences in dynamic and challenging ways as an excellent role model for the whole communities, making a positive contribution to the holistic society of United Kingdom.

He is a well reputed and well-known, enthusiastic, honest, sincere, trustworthy, tireless and charismatic community worker commanding a very high level of respect and recognition within the British Bangladeshi, Ethnic Minority Communities including Host Community of Great Britain

## **Earlier achievements of Mohammed**

In 1990, Mohammed started to look for voluntary work with Birmingham City Council. He worked at a local advice centre and later worked at a local neighbourhood office on a voluntary capacity for more than two years.

In July 1993, he was employed by Birmingham City Council Equalities Division as a Community Development Officer and seconded to the Bangladesh Council (an umbrella organisation) as a Chief Executive Officer.

He was the first Community Development Officer for the Bangladeshi Community and he served in various capacities to the different communities. He has brought some fundamental changes and people's perceptions and mentalities in British Bangladeshi and other Ethnic Minority Communities.

In 1997, Mohammed took the initiative to set up the Multi-Purpose Centre in Aston and secured £2.5m. The organisation is the outcome of a combination of factors, notably the need for the British Bangladeshi community to be represented in an appropriate way as a result of difficulties experienced in the market for ethnic minority communities, and other research into the barriers that obstruct their progress in establishing Small, Medium and large Enterprises, including access to finance, management, technical and logistical support, including Covid-19 various reports the Bangladeshi high mortality rate within ethnic minority communities in United Kingdom.

The Centre organises and delivers services across a range of activities, including adult training, in partnership with City College, for the local community. It provides ESOL for men and women, Bi-lingual language certificate course, Bengali AS and A Level, and sewing and basic computer classes. It also has an employment project called the Women's Web. The project aims to engage socially excluded females in training, education and employment and is funded through the Learning and Skill Council's co-financing programme.

**Volunteering** - The Centre has established a volunteering programme aimed at unemployed people. This project has supported people from various backgrounds and has been instrumental in supporting people into employment. Since its establishment, the centre has

enabled over 500 unemployed people to enter employment.

**Youth development initiative** - The Centre has delivered four youth projects with funding from the Youth Offending Service, Connexions, Positive Future, Aston Pride and Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council.

**Benefits advice** - The Benefits Agency runs advice surgeries from the Centre on a part-time outreach basis.

**Housing advisor** - A housing advisor is delivering housing advice and support to the local residents on a part-time outreach basis from the centre.

**Guidance and counselling** - Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre has been providing a guidance and counselling service to the local community to deal with social and domestic issues as well as support to identify ways of gaining employment.

**Supplementary school** - This service is provided to young people from the age of 7 to 16-year olds during the weekends. These courses are being partly financed by the Education Equalities Division. The Centre is currently delivering supplementary school classes for Spoken Bengali and English.

**Fitness academy** - A fitness programme is being delivered from the centre in partnership with local residents. The fitness class is combined with martial arts and most of the participants are young men from the local area. This project is being financed by the Centre and individuals participating in the activity.

**Outreach** - The Multi-Purpose Centre has 2 part-time outreach workers to engage members of the local community with the centre activities. The funding has been gained through the Women's Web Employment project.

**Hall hire service** - The Centre has been hiring out the hall for weddings and other social events to generate income for the centre to pay for its maintenance.

**Elderly advocacy support** - The Centre has been providing advocacy support to the elderly

community on a regular basis. This service has been provided in various ways as the needs of the elderly community are diverse.

Services are overseen by a highly skilled and experienced Board of Directors and Advisors, one of which is Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE. They meet, on average, 6 times a year and have, since the project's inception, worked tirelessly in support of its development and growth. Mohammed comes from the public sector which complements the business acumen highlighted above.

The board have joined together to address the needs of the British Bangladeshi community and with the objective of removing social and economic inequality.

### **Other outstanding achievements of Mohammed:**

Mohammed, who was a Secretary General of the Development Council for Bangladeshis in the UK (DCfB UK), organised and implemented two seminars and dinners, in February 2010 and March 2011, in the House of Commons. It will be marked as an extraordinary and a meaningful evening for the British Bangladeshis in the UK. The meeting started at the Committee Room 14 and ended with a dinner party at the Members Dining Room of the House of Commons.

The evening was extraordinary in the sense that some of the community leaders, representing the segments of the British-Bangladeshis in the UK, sought to diagnose and highlight the problems and challenges facing the community in the UK; whilst others, especially representing the British policy establishment and interest groups, touched on areas on relevant policy matters and reflected on the positive actions needed to advance the communities of British Bangladeshi people further along as worthwhile citizens of this country.

The event was chaired by the DCfB UK President, Mohammad Monir Hussain. The meeting introduced the ideals and objectives of the event and also given the rationale of the organization as a sort of non-political umbrella body carrying forward the developmental aspirations of the British Bangladeshis in the UK. The uniqueness of the event was its problem-solving approach, as it sought to identify the issue areas that need to be addressed and offer policy feedback where they require to be redressed.

The need of young British-Bangladeshis to develop their aspirations to get into mainstream politics was addressed, as well as positive action by the establishment, without which the community could not project their requirements and policy actions appropriately. Youth education was an area that was mentioned, where the people of Bangladeshi origins are disproportionate sufferers and are in need of positive policy actions. The curry industry was highlighted as a major industry in the British economy with entrepreneurships of people largely of Bangladeshi origin.

He had also touched on the numerous problems faced by the industry in terms of personnel, VAT, Taxes, management, finance etc, where the industry needed the intervention and support of the policymakers. The current predicaments and future challenges facing British Bangladeshi Business community in general was also discussed, especially the small and medium enterprises, in the prevailing contexts of an environment where businesses are by and large dominated by the multinationals.

These are issues close to Mohammed's heart, and his commitment and dedication to the cause brought about these historical nights, where His Excellency the High Commissioner of People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Syedur Rahman Khan, was also present with 6 other Members of Parliaments. This clearly indicates the enormity and importance of the events.

In addition, Sarah Ludford MEP, was present, who spoke of the need for availing the opportunities offered by the European Social Fund for education and training. Christine Blower, the General Secretary, National Union of Teachers, also addressed the gathering, admonished the British Bangladeshis to join the noble profession of teaching in order to enhance their position and status in the UK, while Kay Carberry, Assistant General Secretary TUC, in the course of his speech invited the people of Bangladeshi origins to join the trade unions in order to secure their professional jobs and positions. Mr. Keith Best, a former Chief Executive, Immigration and Advisory Services, while noting the problems of immigration suffered by the British Bangladeshis in the past, implored the community.

The first event was hosted by Lyn Brown MP, the Whip of the Government and supported by Rt. Hon. MPs, Stephen Timms, former Minister for Digital Britain; Jim Fitzpatrick MP, former Minister for Food and Farming; Justine Greening, former Shadow Minister for

London; Frank Dobson MP, former Health Secretary; Lee Scott MP; Richard Caborn MP; John Grogan MP; Brian Binley MP; Sally Keeble MP. The second event was hosted by Rushanara Ali MP, Shadow Overseas Development Minister. All of them had graced the occasions with their kind presence and spoke with warmth and affection of the innumerable contribution of the community to British society. All of them also promised sustained support towards improvement of quality of life and living of the people of British Bangladeshis in the UK.

About 180 delegates were present at the meeting. Among them the DCfB national and regional leaders, councilors, communities and businesses were also present. General Secretary of the Development Welfare Council for Bangladeshis in the UK, concluded the meetings by paying tribute to all participants, and thanked Mohammed for organising the events for two consecutive years and expressed a keen interest in such events in the future.

### **Mohammed's Vision and Mission:**

In December 1996, Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE was engaged in a campaign to stop the deportation of a mother and daughter, Shirin Begum and Farida Begum, in Leicester to Bangladesh by the Home Office. The story was massive as it involved deporting a British Citizen who should not have been subject to immigration controls, as she was born to a parent settled in the UK. It was covered by the ITV morning news in early 1997. Mr Uddin lead a campaign and demonstration by the British Bangladeshi Community in Birmingham outside the British Airways office, who provided the tickets for the deportation. The then BBC reporter for the East Midlands, Barney Choudhury, and Anita Bhalla for the West Midlands, reported on the demonstration, which led to the Home Office extending their time in the UK for a month initially. Legal proceedings followed, by McGrath & Co. Solicitors in Birmingham, in which they were given another three months' extension. They won the legal battle and were confirmed as British Citizens, and now they are living a settled, happy life in the UK.

Mohammed was also involved in another deportation case. In 2004, Mr Lutfur Rahman from Sparkhill, Birmingham, was arrested and taken to a Detention Centre in Oxford, after he arrived as a Visitor in 1986 and stayed on illegally. In his time in the UK he had served the British Community as a chef in an Indian restaurant. He was taken to Heathrow Airport

without notice to get on a flight to Bangladesh. The course and stress of situation made him fall ill and he could not board the plane.

He was brought back to the Detention Centre, when he contacted Mohammed, who arranged for a legal representative, Mr Riaz Khan, from Millichips Solicitors in West Bromwich, Birmingham and engaged local Member of Parliament, Mr Roger Godsiff, to send a representation to the Secretary of State. The case was transferred to the Immigration Court at Sheldon, Birmingham. Mohammed was the prime witness at court to champion Mr Lutfur Rahman's community work in Birmingham for more than one and a half decade. The Honourable Court was impressed with Mr Rahman and gave him permission to stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom.

These are only two examples of the incredible selfless voluntary work Mohammed has done over the years, for the greater good of the community. The time, effort and passion demonstrated by him is far and beyond. Helping people in needs, who are less able to help themselves, is part of who Mohammed is. This makes him honourable and a great example to Britain as a Nation.

He has, since he arrived in the UK, been helping the British Bangladeshi Community including Ethnic Minority Communities by large; he has helped over a few thousand people to get jobs and over 500 people to get housing facilities, from the Local Authorities and various Housing Associations.

In terms of education, Mohammed has campaigned to increase the British Bangladeshi and Ethnic Minority parental participation in schools, by lobbying to recruit more school staff, school governors and teachers from the community (including the Bangladeshi Community and other Ethnic Minority Communities). He has been encouraging school attendance through removal of barriers to learning, and improving communication between schools, parents and community activists. Standards of achievement, including closing of the equality gap, were raised.

In terms of employment and social welfare, he created intense pressure on the public agencies to recognise that British Bangladeshi people needed additional measures if the employment gap between the British Bangladeshi people and the wider Host Community people was to be

minimised. The British Bangladeshi Community were not aware of their welfare rights, so various awareness days, consultations, seminars and workshops were arranged to involve them and let them know which benefits they were entitled to, for specific claims. In addition, this created pressure to recruit people of British Bangladeshi origin specifically for this sector.

Mohammed made the Housing Authorities, Housing Associations and co-operations examine their allocation policies to assess their impact on the British Bangladeshi and Ethnic Minority Communities (such as review policies on allocation and homelessness), in order to highlight gaps and recruit more staff and board members from Bangladeshi and Ethnic Minority Communities and to effectively serve the various Housing Associations and Authorities.

Statistically, British Bangladeshi people are more likely to report suffering of ill health than the host population. Several health awareness workshops, seminars were arranged by Mohammed to improve health, by concentrating on the major threats (such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes and other illness) which also affect British Bangladeshi people. Also highlighted was a move to reduce inequalities in health service provision for senior citizens.

### **British Bangladeshi and other Ethnic Minority Communities' condition before Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE joined the Community**

- In 1990, Mohammed found that very few people were educated within the British Bangladeshi and the other Ethnic Minority Communities in the Birmingham and West Midlands Region as well as the whole country. Families were less interested in their children's education and used to engage them in their businesses even before they finished secondary school.
- Very few people in the community were aware about their social care, legal rights and welfare system of the society. They did not know where to go or who to see to resolve their economic, social and cultural problems.
- There was a huge gap between the host community, the British Bangladeshi Community, as well as the other Ethnic Minority Communities in terms of social and Community Cohesion, cooperation and regeneration, including Community

Engagement.

- Women empower in British Bangladeshi and other ethnic minority communities were deprived, disadvantaged and less educated than the host community. They were not aware about their welfare and legal rights and therefore, were neglected by their own community.
- People in the Bangladeshi Community were only interested about their community politics rather than mainstream politics. There was no British Bangladeshi Councilor in the Birmingham City Council and they were not familiar with the process. It took encouragement and motivation to enable the formation of a councilor.
- The level of unemployment among the British Bangladeshi people was higher than that of other community people, regardless of age, sex, culture, gender, social class, location, qualification and faith. Most of the young people lived on social benefits and experienced a negative attitude towards employment. This was an unacceptable and inefficient use of Birmingham and Great Britain's labour force, state welfare, finances and tax revenue.

### **What Mohammed has done for the Community and Civic Society?**

In his past and present role Mohammed has prepared various strategies and policies to look after the community's demands and needs previously mentioned, as well as project budgets, accounts, quarterly and annual reports for the Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre and other organisations as well.

He was involved in various developments, projects and consultations with community groups, funding authorities, local authority, statutory agencies, and voluntary organisations in Birmingham and Britain, to identify all ethnic minority communities' needs and demands to improve their lifestyle in the United Kingdom.

Mohammed encouraged around more than a few thousand community members to join the local authority, private, public and voluntary sectors, as well as other professions and technical

employment within West Midlands including various cities of Britain and country of origin over the last 3 and half decades.

There were 200 Bangladeshi voluntary organisations affiliated to the Bangladesh Council (Umbrella organisation). Mohammed has improved these organisations, providing them with advice and guidance, appropriate information, counselling, support, and advice on delivery of the services and development of various projects for them.

Mr Uddin has kept inspiring people in the Bangladeshi community in the West Midlands, especially in Birmingham. He has made invaluable contributions to the communities in Birmingham by establishing and directing New Hope Global. This organisation has made tangible differences to individuals' well-being, cultural and social integration via successfully initiating and implementing grassroots projects in the communities in most deprived areas of Birmingham – i. e. Aston, Lozells, Handsworth, Ladywood, and many more. There are 11 paid staff and 6 volunteers working for the organisation, and Mr Uddin is eager to generate more jobs by expanding the organisation. The organisation is established with a clear vision, mission, aims, and objectives. Indeed, the organisation is set up to support disadvantaged people in our society by providing them with comprehensive guidance and training to excel as individuals and families. The projects and initiatives that our organisation strives to implement are based on the primary objective to develop the capacity and skills of members of socially and economically disadvantaged ethnic minority communities in Birmingham and its surrounding areas. We build and harness links with other charity and community development organisations, academic institutions and businesses, working in collaboration to help people in need.

Among Mohammed's greatest achievements for the community is the establishment of the Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre in Aston, Birmingham. It is still the largest centre of its kind for the Bangladeshi Community outside of Bangladesh. The Centre is based in the inner city where workers from diverse backgrounds are trained to respond to the needs of service users in a multicultural environment.

The Centre has been catering for the education, health, housing, leisure and training needs of the community of the Birmingham and West Midlands Region. Most of the events, national meetings, seminars, symposiums and workshops were catered for by the Bangladesh Multi-

Purpose Centre, due to the geographical prime location of the Centre and easy access from every isle of Great Britain, where the British Bangladeshi people reside and have businesses.

Mohammed was the initiator and founder Chief Executive Officer of the Centre. He secured funding from various authorities and charities totaling to more than £2.5 million to purchase the property and to refurbish the centre. The community supported Mohammed's initiative and the people were eager to get involved with the various projects. He raised funds to create 20 fulltime/part-time positions at the centre. Effective liaison and consultations in obtaining appropriate advice, guidance, suggestions and recommendations were integral requirements gaining the end result.

He has demonstrated high commitment working with the Centre to make it a complete success by opening the eyes of community members to enter mainstream service provisions. This centre has served as a benchmark for the British Bangladeshi Community in Great Britain. As a result, several other similar community development organisations have been established in various parts of Britain, for example Coventry Bangladesh Centre, London Bangladesh Centre, London Muslim Centre, Greater Manchester Bangladesh Association, Oldham Millennium Centre, Bradford Bangladesh Centre and Newcastle Bangladesh Association.

Mohammed has very strong professional negotiating and diplomatic knowledge, skills and experiences exhibiting sensitivity with political issues including mediation. He has extensive experience in developing various policies, managing projects and implementing regeneration programmes for the British Bangladeshi Community including the holistic society.

He has secured funds from a charity organisation to produce a Bangladesh Council and Community Profile for the year 1998/99. This was the first profile of its kind to provide information on the British Bangladeshi Community and its aims, objectives and achievements. This profile would provide an outline of the background of the community settled in Birmingham (as well as other cities in Britain), highlighting their achievements and needs and addressing steps taken to meet those needs.

Mohammed has regularly organised focus group meetings on youth employment, contributed

to the development of new youth training schemes and worked on equality and gender issues. He has worked on the organisation of a professional exchange between Birmingham City Council and Sylhet City Corporation, in Bangladesh, in conjunction with the Birmingham City University.

As the Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre, he was responsible for large project management, and human and financial resources. This included manage and supervision of staff, to ensure the efficient running of both the office and of the organisation.

Mohammed's role as a Chief Executive included recruitment of staff and volunteers, appraisals, capacity building, motivating, encouraging regeneration and development.

He understands the key issues affecting the economic and social life of the inner-city residents/ organisations.

In terms of working in multi-agency partnerships at all levels, he has carried out day-to-day communication and networking with various groups (i.e. agencies, funders, partners, stakeholders, voluntary and charity organisations as well as individuals).

**Mohammed was engaged to develop partnership work of the following organisations as follows:**

- Ethnic Catering Development Initiative (ECDI);
- Bangladesh Taskforce and World Youth Programme, which has involved various communities, voluntary, statutory and private sectors, including:
  - Advantage West Midlands
  - Bangladesh Catering Association
  - Birmingham & Solihull Business Link
  - Birmingham & Solihull Connexions
  - Birmingham Asian Business Consortium
  - Birmingham Catering Academy
  - Birmingham Chinese Society
  - Birmingham City College

- Birmingham City Council
- Birmingham College of Food, Tourism & Creative Studies
- Hanley College Coventry
- Indian Catering Academy, Oxford
- Job Centre Plus
- Learning Skills Council
- South Birmingham College
- Thomas Danby College, Leeds
- Shalimar 2000, Birmingham
- Springboard UK Ltd
- Walsall Arts & Technology College
- Heritage Lottery, West Midlands
- Big Lottery Fund.
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- DCMS Department of Culture Media and Sports
- GPDQ
- Ernest Hecht

Mohammed has strongly supported various Government Legislations and initiatives by implementing strategies, e.g. best value and modernisation of local government agenda; the improvement of local services (e.g. housing, education, employment, and primary health care and benefit services). He worked with the main contract holders to raise awareness of various issues and developed programmes to encourage voluntary organisations, and public and private sector businesses.

Mohammed conducted New Deal and Job Route programmes to encourage unemployed 16-60-year olds into employment. In addition, he is also actively involved with British Bangladeshi jobseekers, incapacity, lone parents and new arrival groups from Bangladesh and Ethnic Minorities country of origin. More than five hundred people from the British Bangladeshi Community have obtained employment in various sectors because of these programmes.

In relation to negotiating skills (including the ability to secure funds and resolve conflicting interests, which are especially important where one is dealing with sensitive issues and

diplomacy at a strategic level), making and justifying balanced judgement skills of financial nature were vital when purchasing and refurbishing the premises of the Bangladeshi Multi-Purpose Centre with the residents and various local groups.

During his Community Development Officer position at Bangladesh Council his knowledge of banking helped him manage all budgets, resources, staffs including all assets. He prepared various strategic business plans for grant applications and secured capital and revenue fund for Bangladesh Council, Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre and the Community Profile project. He also successfully managed a £2.5m fund and prepared annual accounts for internal and external auditors. In addition, he has also managed ethnic minority business scheme accounts and budgets.

For thirty-two years of service and working with the authorities, Mohammed's approach has been very sensitive within the complex political and cultural issues. He has always contributed towards producing and delivering quality products, such as Birmingham Employment Partnership, 'City Pride', Job Route Initiative and the Community Cohesion Hub.

As a team leader, he joined the initiative and advised on grounds of culture, disability, gender, race and religion. In addition, he was very keen and able to understand the importance of addressing needs and resolving issues facing socially excluded groups within the holistic society.

Mohammed has been significantly involved in areas populated by British Bangladeshi people, by improving ways of reaching out to jobless British Bangladeshis by placing more staff and offices in those areas and working with intermediary voluntary and private sector organisations that are already working with British Bangladeshi people.

Furthermore, in his post as a Community Development Officer and Employment Development Officer, he has helped many individuals, groups and affiliated organisations to set up effective equal opportunity policies to bring about organisational change. When implementing equal opportunities in the workplace, he has always been guided by the Equal Opportunity Policy to which he has totally committed. He has been fully committed to equal opportunities and demonstrated this by making it a priority that full consideration be given to the needs of disabled people, socially isolated groups, women and young people, who may be vulnerable and at a disadvantage, especially by the introduction of the Bangladeshi Multi-

Purpose Centre, New Deal and Job Route Employment Programmes.

**What is the present condition of the Community and the Society that Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE has been serving?**

Comparing 1990, when Mohammed first engaged as a community activist, to present day, revolutionary changes have happened to the community and the society and Mohammed has played some highly visible roles in it. The education level of the communities has dramatically increased from very low percentage to good percentage level. More young people are going to universities and colleges and completing their degrees. People are becoming doctors, lawyers, accountants, and other professionals to serve the society. This is because of Mohammed's inspiration and encouragement for the community to become educated through career advice & guidance, frequent consultation with parents and group discussions, job fairs as well as voluntary work as a Secretary General of the Development Council for Bangladeshis in the UK (National Committee).

Adults are also studying and undergoing vocational training through Birmingham City and Birmingham Metropolitan Colleges in collaboration with the Bangladesh Multi- Purpose Centre. Mohammed took the initiative and organised several meetings and workshops at the Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre with the community in order to encourage them to get education and training for a better life, within the British Society.

People from the Ethnic Minority Communities recognised that Mohammed operated at the Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre and were aware that he can advise and guide them to resolve their issues and problems.

Mohammed started to do campaigning for British Bangladeshi and other Ethnic Minority Candidates for Local, National and European Elections. He encouraged the community to have a councillor from their own community to better understand their needs and demands. As a result, a couple of Bangladeshi and other candidates of Ethnic Minority Origin stood for the local council election and became elected members of the Birmingham City Council and surrounding Sandwell and Dudley Council.

Women from Bangladeshi and other Ethnic Minority Communities are performing well in

their fields. Mohammed has organised several women entrepreneurship and education programs at the Bangladeshi Multi-Purpose Centre from his own initiative and therefore, women in the surrounding area have started to flourish in their fields. He has always encouraged the men in this society to be supportive to women in their family to establish equal opportunity rights and enter then into the mainstream activities.

For the improvement and welfare of the community, he has raised £2.5 million pounds funds through active discussion and negotiation with different government lending agencies. As a result, better recreation and amusement facilities have been established into the surrounding area.

The level of employment in the British Bangladeshi Community has increased dramatically over time as so many young people who have worked voluntarily at the Bangladeshi Multi-Purpose Centre have subsequently joined different government agencies for employment. It was the devotion of Mohammed who selflessly and tireless worked and trained young people for the employment opportunities in the community, raising their levels of confidence to secure employment.

Regular meetings and discussions held in the community organised by him between the host community, British Bangladeshi and other Ethnic Minority Communities has tremendously increased co-operation and community cohesion agenda. This subsequently resulted in the unprecedented election of a Bangladeshi candidate as a councillor in the largest local authority of Great Britain.

Public agencies have recognised that additional measures are needed if the employment gap of the British Bangladeshi people and the wider community is to be closed. The pressure and lobbying made by Mohammed has trimmed down unemployment amongst the British Bangladeshi people.

In addition, his best effort and recommendation of schemes should be designed, introduced and promoted to ensure that British Bangladeshi people know that they will not lose out on the benefits if they undertake a mainstream job.

An “income-bridge” to help people move from benefit to self-employment should be explored

with relevant authorities within the British structure.

### **Mohammed and his Peers**

Mohammed got involved in voluntary work from the age of 10 years old. He served and collaborated with Bangladeshi freedom fighters in 1971, as a child activist, during the Independence War of Bangladesh and was honoured by the then local Member of Parliament there.

During the adolescent period of primary and secondary school, Mohammed was extremely popular, and was honoured as an elected school captain by the student population at both schools.

During his college and university life, Mohammed was elected as a member of the student union cabinet and was the most respected and admired representative from the general students, staff and teachers. In his capacity as a voluntary school teacher at two schools, he earned a lot of respect from pupils, colleagues, parents and school governing body members.

When Mohammed started working as a first-generation private sector banker in Dhaka, Bangladesh, he was an exceptionally energetic enthusiastic dynamic officer and tried to introduce new initiatives in the banking system of Bangladesh. Previously all banks were run by the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Mohammed was a very loyal, obedient, charismatic officer for the International Finance Investment & Commerce Bank Ltd, and he worked with the full satisfaction of his General Manager and Managing Director of the Bank. During his time at the banking sector, he arranged various picnic parties annually in different places of the country, which have continued ever since.

In 1990, Mohammed was a student at the City Banking College in London. He found out that there was a huge shortage of British Bangladeshi Community workers and he joined as a volunteer in the Greater Sylhet Development Welfare Council in the UK, in his spare time.

Later, Mohammed settled in Birmingham and joined the local St James Advice Centre and Aston Neighbourhood Office as a bilingual voluntary worker and his work appeased the Centre Manager and the Neighbourhood Office Manager. The voluntary skills and experience helped him to acquire a full time permanent position at Birmingham City Council as a Community Development Officer.

Mohammed used to hold a position in Birmingham City Council but has always been seconded at the Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre as a Chief Executive Officer, up until he left the position officially in December 2009. He was managed by two supervisors, one being the Chair of the Centre and the other the Assistant Director of Human Resources and Head of Equality and Diversity, Birmingham City Council, both of whom regarded Mohammed highly and respected him because of his tireless and consistent service. The Local authority and management realised they could not lose his vast expertise, skills and abilities, so he stayed on as an advisor for the Centre as a Local authority nominee.

### **Mohammed Foiz Uddin's earlier life before he joined the Community in 1990: 1962-1978**

Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE was born on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1962 in a remote village called Srirampur, Upazilla South Surma, in the district of Sylhet, Bangladesh. He was the youngest child of five brothers and one sister.

Mohammed received his junior and primary education from the local junior and primary schools and completed his primary education in 1971. During this time, he was a very obedient and loyal student and was elected school captain on each occasion. He was an extremely favourite student of primary and secondary school teachers alike, as well as the Head Teachers.

During the Liberation War of Bangladeshi Independence from Pakistan in 1971, Mohammed was ten years old and he directly participated and helped the freedom fighters of Bangladesh. He went door to door and raised funds and collected foods resources from the local villagers for them. In addition, when the Pakistan Military surrendered on 16th December 1971, he

was guide to the freedom fighters searching individual houses for hidden enemies. His role was very vital within his local area and surrounding as a young activist.

In that period, his second brother was a District Chairman of the District Youth Federation of the ruling party and was very close to the father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first President of Bangladesh.

After independence of Bangladesh in 1971, Mohammed took his admission in a secondary school at his neighbouring village, which was three and half miles away from his house. Everyday he had to walk this distance to attend to his education. In 1978, he successfully completed his Secondary School Certificate.

### **1978-1984**

Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE went to study for his Higher Secondary Certificate at Madanmohan College in Sylhet and obtained the Higher Secondary School Certificate successfully in the year 1980.

After the completion of the Higher Secondary Certificate, he served the local primary school as a teacher for a year on a voluntary basis. He graduated in Commerce from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh, in 1982.

During his school, college and university life, he always contributed and sacrificed himself to public and humanity welfare activities. He joined as a trainee in Bangladesh National Cadet Corp (BNCC) to serve the public in many ways such as, career advice, community policing, counselling, guidance, job fairs and at blood donation camps and eye camps. He also helped public in traffic weeks including health and safety awareness programmes.

After graduating, Mohammed studied for a further two years at Dhaka University for a Master's Degree in management which he obtained in 1984. He then voluntarily served the local secondary school as an Accounting Teacher for more than a year on a voluntary basis.

### **1985-1990**

In February 1985, Mohammed started his career as a Probationary Officer in the banking sector and worked for the International Finance Investment & Commerce Bank in Bangladesh, successfully completing his probationary period.

The position was that of a Senior Officer residing with the advance and foreign exchange of departments, as well as dealing with the public and managing staff. Over the five years he gained substantial experience of the banking sector in Bangladesh and served the cross-sections of public in the community.

In May 1990, he left his job in Bangladesh to gain further qualifications in the United Kingdom and took admission in the City Banking College of London.

After studying for a year, Mohammed went back to Bangladesh and married a British girl of Bangladeshi origin and then returned to London with his newly-wed wife to continue his studies. Upon completion of the course, both Mohammed and his wife decided to settle in Birmingham.

Mohammed realised that there was a shortage of British Bangladeshi Community Workers in the City of Birmingham. He felt people were not able to access services available to them due to lack of awareness and communication problems. He felt the work force did not reflect upon the service users as there was a large population of the British Bangladeshi community living in Birmingham and the surrounding of West Midlands (as well as in other cities of Britain) who were unemployed.

In December 2006, Mohammed also received his MSc. degree in Public Policy Management from the University of Birmingham.

### **Membership and Board of Directors**

He has served in the following positions, paid and mostly voluntary which had given him the opportunity to serve the Bangladeshi and other Ethnic Minority Communities in Britain:

2020 – Date Parent Governor for Stockland Green School

2019 – Date Birmingham & West Central Police IAG

2018 – Date Committee Member, Birmingham Commonwealth Association

2016 – Date Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry

2016 – Date Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School, Birmingham – Member of the Governing Body

2015 – Date Institute of Fundraising – Full Member (MInstF)

2014 – Date Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust

2010 – 2013 Advisor, Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre, Aston, Birmingham UK  
(Honorary)

2010 – 2012 Non-Executive Director for Business Development, R&K Accountants &  
Business Advisors

2007 – 2016 Secretary General (National Committee), Development Council for  
Bangladeshis in UK (Honorary)

2006 – Date Chairman, New Hope, Birmingham UK (Honorary)

1993 – 2013 Equality and Diversity Officer, Birmingham City Council (Paid)

1993 – Date Trade Union Member, (UNISON) Birmingham UK

1997 – 2016 Director, Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisation in UK (Honorary)

1997 – 2006 LEA School Governor, Perry Beeches School, Birmingham (Honorary)

1996 – 2000 Treasurer, Bangladesh Cultural Association, Midlands (Honorary)

1998 – 1999 Regional Observers, Focus Housing Group Ltd (Honorary)

1996 – 1999 West Midlands Police Advisory Group Members (Director - Honorary)

1994 – 1997 Patron, National Training of Bangladesh (Honorary)

1993 – 1996 Greater Sylhet Development Welfare Council UK, West Midlands (Honorary)

1978 – 1982 President Youth Federation, Sylhet District, Bangladesh (Honorary)

### **Other Information about Mohammed**

In February 1997, Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE was involved in arranging for the Lord Mayor of Birmingham to visit Bangladesh as a state guest to develop multilateral relations between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom.

Mohammed was chosen to accompany the Lord Mayor of Birmingham City Council during her visit to Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, and arrange meetings with the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Foreign Minister, Home Minister, Local Government and Rural Development Ministers and the Speaker of Parliament (attending parliamentary sessions at the Parliament House) in the year 1997.

He also met with the Mayor of Dhaka, Mayor of Chittagong, the Mayor of Sylhet and the Moulvi Bazaar City Corporation. As a result, the bilateral relationship tremendously strengthened between the two countries. Subsequently, Birmingham, London and other City Mayors then started a programme of twinning between different cities of both countries because of the visit.

Mohammed has been a member of many other organisations and associations such as:

- BSVC- Steering Committee Member of Birmingham Voluntary Sector European Forum
- Chartered Institute of Bankers
- Midland Cultural Association
- National Training Academy, Bangladesh (Patron)
- Rotary International
- West Midlands Police Advisory Group.

He was also an LEA nominated Secondary School Governor for Perry Beaches School, Birmingham, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Birmingham – Member of the Governing Body and Parent Governor for Stockland Green School, Birmingham.

Both Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE and his spouse, Dr Saleha Jeba working in the NHS, have been working in the Public Sector. Their wish is to continue their career to help further the development of the Civic Society in Britain.

As a Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh Multi-Purpose Centre, I completely believe that Mohammed has taken an overall viewpoint and has gained the skills to manage a complex matrix structure (as well as Community Development Programmes) very wisely, tactfully, effectively and efficiently.

Mohammed had a heart attack in September 2004 but has still continued his hard work magnanimously for the British Bangladeshi Community and Ethnic Minority Communities in Great Britain. Mohammed has an excellent level of educational background and has performed for his community, local and voluntary services work, very successfully and resourcefully, challenging with dynamic and charismatic leadership. He has contributed significantly to improve the way of life of the British Bangladeshis.

I and the community strongly believe Mohammed Foiz Uddin MBE is the best candidate for the award, because of his huge contribution to the Public Service including Community Cohesion, Development, Regeneration and Welfare to the British Bangladeshi Community including the Host Community and other Ethnic Minority Communities in United Kingdom.