

LATEST HEADLINES

Spiritual aid comes to court

A multi-faith team has been set up in Bradford Magistrates Court to offer spiritual guidance and practical help to court users, defendants, their families.

The Reverend Dr Barry Barton and Mohammed Latif Mir, who is the chaplain at Lynfield Mount Hospital and for Bradford Teaching Hospitals, were introduced as the first court chaplains in the Bradford Court Chaplaincy Service (BCCS).

They will train chaplains of other faiths to offer “spiritual and practical support”, said Mary Carroll JP, chairman of the trustees.



From left, Mary Carroll, Mohammed Latif Mir, the Rev Dr Barry Barton and Lord Patel of Bradford at the launch of the service

The chaplaincy service will also work with voluntary groups and health professionals to offer help to drug and alcohol abusers and people with mental health problems who often have nowhere to turn.

Mrs Carroll said: “What makes our scheme different is that it will be full-time, it will be multi-faith and it will be independent of the court service and any single religious group.

“We think there is an enormous need for this service to deal with the mass of human pain and misery we see everyday in this court.”

Lord Patel of Bradford, honorary president of the BCCS, said he was “honoured” to have been involved with setting up the service.

Lord Patel, an expert on drug use in Bradford’s Muslim community, said: “This is something that is very close to my heart and touches on areas I have been closely involved with for a long time – issues of crime, illegal drug use and mental health.” He added: “I really believe in the value of this service and the unique contribution it can make.”

The service is now up and running and Barry Barton & Latif Mir can be found loitering with intent on the concourse daily.