

Community Alliance for Renewal, Inner South Manchester Area



Life-chances for young people in the community

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INFORMATION SHEET

Carisma was set up in 2003 as a grass-roots community organisation. Though most of the people involved in running it are Christians it is not a Christian organisation as we want it to serve all of the community and be community-owned.

Carisma is about networking, facilitating and advocating on behalf of the community and particularly for young people. Our approach is to take a positive view of our young people, seeing them not as nuisances having to be stopped or diverted, but as having God-given potential and gifts which they have the right to see fulfilled in positive ways. Our strapline is: "life-chances for young people in the community".

We don't 'do projects' as such as Carisma (though most if not all of us are involved in various other activities and projects which can sometimes cause a bit of confusion over how Carisma is perceived) but try to act as an umbrella organisation serving existing projects by linking them together and supporting them.

The recent visit to Moss Side by Tony Blair was a good example of it working well. Carisma was asked to facilitate getting a group of community representatives and activists together to meet with him. We also helped the group to formulate what they wanted to say to the PM into a number of clearly expressed points which (hopefully) contained their concerns and ideas.

Last week was the 5th inner-south Manchester PeaceWeek which we set up as a 'shop-window' into the many good and positive aspects of our community. Again this is something we facilitate and encourage others to join in and make it happen. This has grown year by year as we see more individuals, groups and organisations - local and statutory - catch the idea and come on board to organise events and activities. There are some photos on our website.

See also: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/manchester/6394445.stm> and
http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/237/237185_fifth_annual_peace_week_begins.html

Occasionally we have been involved in setting up a new project or activity, but only in response to an express need or request, e.g. Street Pastors in Manchester (www.streetpastors.org.uk).

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