



Governance

First Asian Support Trust (FAST) Ltd



Building Community Through Diversity

FAST has been delivering community based support services in Cheetham Hill and Longsight since 1993. We provide advice, learning, employability skills and supported activities within the local community and have delivered a range of employment related and community capacity building support programmes since 2003 including European Social Fund (ESF), Learning Skills Council (LSC), Department for Work and Pension (DWP)/Job Centre plus (JCP) funded provisions.

We have supported participants with significant barriers to sustained employment. Working on projects such as: New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP), Community Task Force (CTF) for 18 – 24 year olds and a range of targeted interventions such as: Black Minority Ethnic (BME), Mental Health and Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) which consisted of paid placements for service users.

Having become a well-respected support organisation in the area FAST has seen increased demand for its services. It has now extended its provision to deliver confidence-building, language learning, understanding local services, socialising, ICT, employability, vocational skills and money management. Its remit has expanded to support an increased range of BME residents: people suffering poor mental health; victims of domestic abuse and trafficking; people at risk of poor health through poverty; people subjected to coercion and control; people caught in the poverty trap unable to take the first steps into employment or safety.

FAST contacted Macc to provide some clarity around governance and to do some work on their mission/objects as their governing document was very old and not fully reflective of who they are now as an organisation.

Macc ran some training on governance in general, including a brief look at different organisational structures. Macc also delivered a planning session around their objects with a focus on prioritising what was most needed by the local community.

We are now clearer about our structure and the relationship between trustees, officers, staff and volunteers, and we also have a renewed sense of purpose. Following the



support from Macc we have been able to redraft our governing document to reflect who we are now and what we think we need to do in the future.

“It was brilliant – very good support. The training and planning sessions really opened our eyes as to how passionate we all are about the work we do and the way forwards for us.”

“Going over our governing document made things clearer for us regarding changes that had occurred over the years without us realising and gave us renewed vigour and sense of purpose for the future.”

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