



## Lewisham Members of Parliament visit LIC

**"The best of people are those that bring most benefit to the rest of humanity"**

On Friday the 18th of September 2015 our Local Members of Parliament - Heidi Alexander, Jim Dowd and Vicky Foxcroft - visited [Lewisham Islamic Centre](#) having been invited to do so by the LIC as an opportunity for the Muslim community to meet their elected representatives.

The Event commenced with everyone being welcomed with a special congratulations to Heidi Alexander for being appointed as the new Shadow Health Minister. Next followed a brief presentation by Dr Asad Rahman - Chair of Management Committee of LIC - on the 'History of LIC' covering how it started as a small Mosque but now provides services not only to the Muslim Community but also to the wider non-Muslim Community.

The next presentation was delivered by Zillur Rahman - General Secretary of LIC - focusing on the 'Challenges Facing the Muslim Community' with the rise in Islamophobia resulting in Muslims being attacked and vilified.



The next presentation was by Sumer Mehmet - advisor to the Management of LIC - in which he outlined 'The Vision that Lewisham Islamic Centre has'. He mentioned the importance of the LIC being a Centre of worship but also emphasised that worship in Islam is a very comprehensive term that covered much and thus hoped that the LIC would be a centre of excellence in creating role models for society. Sumer also mentioned that education of Islam was key not only for Muslims but also for non - Muslims. For the Muslims, he outlined that it was important to stay away from teachings based on emotions and sloganeering whereas for non-Muslims, it was important for them to stay away from a sensationalised media narrative of Islam - in each case, it is important that both groups learn and understand Islam from the correct sources. He concluded by mentioning that Muslims need to be considered as of part of the narrative of British Values (as opposed to being considered separate to it). He referred to the statement of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم - in which he stated: ***"The best of people are those that bring most benefit to the rest of humanity"***.



Short speeches were then given by our three elected Members of Parliament. This followed a Q&A Session from members of the community in which questions related to issues such as Islamophobia, the new leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, health, the refugee crisis etc. were asked.

The event was concluded with light refreshment and we thank all involved for coming and participating.