



PRESS RELEASE

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Islamic Fostering Service Wins National Muslim News Award

At a ceremony in London's Mayfair, the Islamic Fostering Service beat fierce competition from organisations nationally to win the Uthman Dan Fodio Award for Excellence in Community Development at 'The Muslim News Awards for Excellence' event held on April 4 2007.

The award was sponsored by the Department of Communities and Local Government, and was presented by the Director General of the Department, Ms Susan Scholefield. The chief guest at the awards ceremony was Hillary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development.

The Islamic Fostering Service was established in 2002, after Ismail Amaan and Munaf Zeena realised that most Muslim children entering the care system were being placed with non-Muslim foster families, and therefore losing links with their culture, faith and heritage. After two years of investing time, energy and funds into the Islamic Fostering Service, Amaan and Zeena, the organisation's co-Directors, were granted a licence to operate in 2004 by the regulatory authority (Commission for Social Care Inspection) under the 'Foster Care Link' banner. They are committed to the promotion of fostering in the Muslim community and have worked in partnership with 11 local authorities and helped place over 50 Muslim children within Muslim homes to date.

In the joint statement, the Directors stated that this was "an excellent achievement for the organisation". They added that "it is testament to all the hard work that has been put into the organisation over the last five years not only by us, but also by our highly committed and dedicated staff team. The Muslim News Awards is a community event, and this award is recognition of the importance the Muslim community places on same faith placements. We therefore particularly thank those local authorities that have worked closely with us to understand and meet the particular needs of Muslim children".

The Muslim News Awards for Excellence is held annually to highlight the achievements of the Muslim community within the UK, with a total of thirteen awards in different categories.

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For further information see below:

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