



## **PRESS RELEASE**

The re-launching of youth club took place on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at Hamaara Centre on Castleton Road. The centre is run by Preston Muslim Forum (PMF).

Statement from the Chief Officer of PMF Anis Faruki:

‘The centre has unfortunately been plagued by significant vandalism in recent months and faced uncertain future. The already stretched resources of PMF meant that we were only able to keep it open on ad hoc basis with limited activities and this caused lot of ill feeling among the young people. This inevitably resulted in escalation of disorder and nuisance in the area. Preston City Council and Lancashire Constabulary provided necessary support as and when it was needed but the failure of Lancashire County Council to contribute positively to the youth agenda in this area prolonged our plans to address the issues surrounding young people’.

‘We have now secured 3 years funding from the young people’s fund and this would hopefully make huge difference not only to the lives of young people but also the residents’.

Faz Khan who has been appointed as a full time project administrator will lead the youth project. Leading member of the community Ismail Bax of Kingfisher Street was upbeat about the project and said ‘that the re-launch of this centre is the only way forward to ensure that the young people in this area have equal access to opportunities related to their physical and mental wellbeing’.

Anis Faruki  
19 June 2006