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Research Report and  
Recommendations to the  
Glasgow Jewish Representative Council  
Community Futures Project

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**Executive summary, principal  
findings and main recommendations  
of the Research Report**

*Fiona Frank*

*With Conrad Cohen and Shani Zour*

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The full findings of this Research Report can be found on the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council website [www.jewishglasgow.org](http://www.jewishglasgow.org) (where a copy of this summary can also be found). Click on the Community Futures link at the top right of the site. If you would like a hard copy of this summary or of the Research Report please contact the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, contact details below.

Comments on the Research Report are welcomed and can be sent to the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council by email to [office@jewishrepresentativecouncil.org](mailto:office@jewishrepresentativecouncil.org) or in writing to:

Orli Schechter  
Administrator,  
Glasgow Jewish Representative Council  
222 Fenwick Road, Giffnock,  
Glasgow  
G46 6UE

Tel: 0141 577 8200 Fax: 0141 577 8202

## Executive Summary, Principal Findings and Main Recommendations

In 2010 Glasgow Jewish Representative Council began a consultation process about the future of Glasgow's Jewish community.

Three working groups met in 2012 to consider three main issues: the future spiritual and religious needs of the community, the future social care needs of the community, and the future needs of members of the community to gain or regain their Jewish identity and involvement with the community. They produced three reports which were drawn together by Paul Morron, coordinator of the consultation project, in a comprehensive report. The next stage was to consult widely within Glasgow's Jewish community on issues raised by the consultation report and any other issues which were seen as important by members of the community.

Through responding to a survey, participating in 'parlour conversations' and open meetings, special Jewish assemblies and youth and student events, around 350 people participated in this research phase of the consultation.

Main findings and principal recommendations:

- i. There was widespread support for a new regular electronic newsletter and paper newsheet giving information about events and activities in the Glasgow community. It was felt that professional assistance would be required to coordinate this, but no less than 14 respondents volunteered to assist with this provision.
- ii. Respondents of all ages called for more social, cultural and educational activities and opportunities to meet people and socialise. 70 per cent of survey respondents were interested in the idea of Jewish Community Centre facilities on the south side of Glasgow. 17 respondents said that they would be willing to assist with the organisation of a 'Youth Limmud' type event.
- iii. We asked whether people felt there was a need for additional cheder provision in Glasgow. 100 per cent of parents of children under 18, and 50 per cent of everyone who answered the question, agreed that there was a need for additional provision. It was however acknowledged that Glasgow Reform Shul's cheder provision is open to non member children and that the Lubavitch also provide a service.
- iv. Calderwood School was widely endorsed as being a key hub of community activity, providing links for children and parents alike, thus endorsing the recommendation of

the 2012 Consultation report that the benefits of enrolling children in the school should be marketed widely within the community.

- v. The research endorsed the recommendation in the consultation report for professionalisation of key roles in youth and outreach work.
- vi. Respondents were supportive of the work done by Jewish Care, Cosgrove Care, Newark Care, and the other Glasgow Jewish care agencies. 93 per cent of those answering the question felt that it was important to be cared for in a Jewish setting and environment and they felt the most important element of that was being in the company of Jewish people, having kosher food, and celebrating Shabbat and festivals.
- vii. Glasgow students were interested in having representation on the Representative Council, and called for their own space – a room or a centre they could use as a resource centre and where they could meet informally.
- viii. Young people, too, wanted their own space, which needed to include structured time with the support of qualified youth workers.
- ix. There was a clear commitment from respondents to an inclusive agenda, with many stressing the importance of intra-communal communications. Events should be inclusive and offered across the community, and efforts should be made to ensure that all members of the community should feel welcome at all communal events.
- x. Israelis in Glasgow were interested in meeting together, in becoming involved with local Jewish activities and in organising Israeli cultural activities which would be open to members of the local community. They were interested in a dialogue with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council to discuss issues including how the Council can help to demonstrate public support for Israel, whether the Council can assist with making a space available for Israelis to use as a library, resource centre and Ivrit education centre, and to discuss representation for local Israelis on the Council.
- xi. Many Israelis in Glasgow have a heightened sense of insecurity, and they are not alone in the Jewish community in feeling that there is widespread hatred of and ignorance towards Israel. There were calls for a programme of education and discussion sessions on Israeli history and politics both from respondents to the survey and attendees at the open meeting.
- xii. Young people and students need to be included in any education programme on Israel, and support needs to be provided on campus when pro-Palestinian activities can sometimes feel intimidating and uncomfortable.

- xiii. Young people, students and Israelis all asked for support with job seeking, and to facilitate the creation of jobs for young people in Glasgow it is recommended that communal organisations and Jewish run businesses should investigate options for offering paid and voluntary internships through organisations such as Adopt-an-Intern and Third Sector Internships Scotland.
- xiv. It was strongly suggested that a programme of leadership training should be offered to people from all ages through the community beginning with young people.
- xv. 'Succession planning' is strongly recommended, with older people being encouraged to step back from key positions within communal organisations, instead providing mentoring for younger members of the community to support them in taking over the leadership positions.
- xvi. There was a call for the production of an on-line and paper 'welcome pack' to be given to new arrivals, including key contacts, key information, and special offers and vouchers.