



City and County of Bristol 2013-14

As the first Asian Muslim female to be appointed to the position of High Sheriff of the City and County of Bristol, my first task was to ensure that I was able to simultaneously retain the traditional dignity and gravitas of the position while also expressing my cultural and religious values within the context of this important role.

My Declaration as High Sheriff took place on 18 March, a beautiful spring day, at Bristol Crown Court, in the court of the Honourable Mr Justice Burnett.

My theme for my shrieval year is mental health and young adults, and Bristol Youth and Community Action (BYCA) – Bristol's version of National Crimebeat.

The first large fundraising event for BYCA was the unique concert themed 'East meets West', held in the city's ancient cathedral in spring. This raised a substantial amount of money, enabling BYCA to provide activities in the summer for disadvantaged children. I had the pleasure of visiting many groups and was able to participate in



At my Declaration Ceremony with the Honourable Mr Justice Burnett and Mr Mahboob Chaudhry.

the less strenuous activities, including plate-juggling and obstacle races.

During these six months I have had the pleasure of being invited to a wide variety of events, including religious and civic celebrations, awards presentations, anniversaries and many

more. On all my visits, I saw my role as that of a facilitator between the public, private and voluntary sectors, both initiating and enabling communication between them, greater partnership working, and improving understanding of each other, as well as 'selling' the benefit of volunteering for statutory bodies.

It continues to be a privilege to serve the City and County of Bristol as High Sheriff. As my shrieval year moves into its second half, with the diary filling fast, I look forward to new experiences that will enable me to continue contributing to the fabric of this great city and its diverse population. □

Dr Shaheen Chaudhry JP
High Sheriff of the City and County of Bristol 2013-14



On a BYCA group visit with the children and volunteers.