

**Announcement in relation to the search for a new
Senior Rabbi/Rebbetzin team**

Within the next fortnight, we will commence advertising for a new senior Rabbi and Rebbetzin for our community. The adverts will be placed in the UK as well as internationally and candidates will have a period of twenty eight days to apply.

This marks the culmination of several months of hard work in which the Selection Advisory Group has met to discuss and agree the necessary documentation, including the development of the Community Profile, Job Description and Person Profile, before we could reach this stage. The recruitment process is closely monitored by the United Synagogue and indeed the whole process must be subject to United Synagogue approval.

The interview and selection process will commence from the end of February onwards and will include visits to other UK communities as part of our due diligence where necessary.

Once we have identified the preferred senior Rabbi and Rebbetzen candidates for BES, and subject to United Synagogue internal procedures, it is currently anticipated that the new senior Rabbi and Rebbetzin will be presented to the Community at the end of May. An EGM will be called shortly after in order for the community to cast its vote on their acceptability.

Although not yet known, we are expecting that the successful applicants will be required to give up to six months notice to their current community. Accordingly, it is likely that they will not be available to join BES until November/December. We are therefore currently investigating various options to ensure that we have an interim senior rabbi to cover the period when Rabbi Silkin's current Interim Senior Rabbi position expires on 1 September 2012 up to the date when the permanent senior Rabbi joins us.

It would be an opportune moment to publicly thank both Rabbi and Rebbetzin Silkin for the way in which they have committed themselves to serving the BES Community to date as although the Silkins will be staying in the area, Rabbi Silkin has decided that he will not be applying for the permanent position of Senior Rabbi at BES. However, Rabbi Silkin will be actively and positively supporting the new rabbinic team during the transitional handover period and also beyond that period.

Further announcements will be made during the forthcoming weeks.

David Onnie
Chair, Selection Advisory Group