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**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016**

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**Background information**

This report is an update on the progress of the Community Partnership Advisor Project (CPA) for the year 2015-2016. It illustrates the background information, the complexity of working with community and faith groups and supplementary schools, progress to date, challenges, achievements and issues arising outside the area of concerns. The report also suggests few actions.

The CPA started in 2005 as a London Child Protection Committee (LCPC) Action Research Project being running across eight London boroughs and funded by the LCPC, the partner London boroughs, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Home Office (HO). The participating London Boroughs were: Brent, Camden, Enfield, Islington, Hackney, Haringey, Newham, and Southwark.

To date only 2 posts are still in place in LB Camden, and City & Hackney. Funding in LB Camden is secured until March 2017.

1. **Overview:**

The London Borough of Camden’s demographic profile corresponds to a typical metropolitan city with University presence. In 2013 it showed that 34% of Camden residents are from black or minority ethnic groups (increase from 27% in 2001). According to the 2011 Census ethnic group categorisation, Bangladeshi forms the largest minority group in seven Camden wards while Black African is the largest in six wards.

17% of the population are children and young people aged under 18. Just 16% of the population is aged under 15 compared to 19% across London.In all ward at least 20% of the population is from black and minority ethnic groups.

Just like any other inner London Boroughs, there are small but growing communities of migrants who are refugees or asylum seekers, as well as migrants resulting from EU enlargement.

According to the 2011 Census the most commonly spoken languages after English remain: Bengali (13%), French (8%), and Spanish (6%) Italian and Somali (5%), German, Arabic, Portuguese and Polish (4%).

Meanwhile, children in schools speak 145 languages and dialects. The most widely spoken languages are Bengali/Sylheti (3,200), Somali with 1,500 students, Albanian with 900, Arabic with 800 and French, Spanish and Portuguese with more than 250.

The number of refugee pupils in Camden schools has increased over the past 10 years and the largest numbers of refugee children are from Somalia, Kosovo and the Congo.

As well as statutory services, there is a range of voluntary and community led service providers working with children and young people from Black Ethnic Minorities communities – including supplementary or and weekend schools run by immigrant communities, many faith groups and voluntary youth initiatives.

The CPA Project acts as a ‘conduit’ in channelling the information from the statutory service providers to BAMER communities and faith organisations as well as to the supplementary schools. The Project has proven useful considering that safeguarding children is *‘culturally’* a sensitive area for the target group.

1. **Project aims and objectives:**
2. Ensure that Camden’s diverse communities know about UK laws on child safeguarding, reporting procedure on child protection concerns and where to get professional help and advice.
3. Improve collaborative mechanisms for keeping Camden’s children safe, by gathering and sharing information and continuing improvement in practice between statutory bodies, local community organisations and faith communities.
4. Empower BAMER community/faith organisations, supplementary and weekend schools in their quest of bringing changes related to harmful practices.
5. Bridge any gaps in communication that may exist between statutory services and communities it serves.
6. Support target organisations their shared responsibilities on safeguarding children agenda as well as help on accessing funding.
7. **Role of the Community Partnership Advisor (CPA)**

* To identify and work with BAMER communities and faith groups, supplementary and weekend schools within Camden by offering training opportunities and links to statutory services on safeguarding children.
* To work with BAMER communities, faith groups and supplementary/ mainstream schools in increasing their knowledge and awareness of childabuse and harmful practices including FGM, abuse linked to belief, discipline in faith setting, forced marriage and honour based violence**.**
* To work with statutory child service providers in understanding the diversity within BAMER communities on child rearing and harmful practices

1. **Methodology: Collaboration/Partnership**

* The success of any community engagement lies in the partnership work. Relevant stakeholders include the local authority, voluntary sector and practicing community groups, the NHS, the Met-Police- Child Abuse Team, the School Inclusion Team and major charity organisation working on child rights such as NSPCC, major funders of specific harmful practices such as London Trust, Rose and the CPA of Hackney and City Borough.
* Ability of combining CPA priorities of child safeguarding with those of the targeted community groups
* Valuing the views of the community group members in the selection of priority issues has been the root causes for the success of CPA Project in particular the series of ‘**Protecting children in the community’** training sessions. This year the Round 8 has been completed involving 12 organisation and 173 local BAMER residents.

1. **Work achieved**
2. **Camden Mosques Engagement & Capacity Building Project.** 16 mosques (more appropriately prayer spaces and Islamic centres) in the London Borough of Camden were recruited with the purpose of engaging them in the debate and formulating recommendations for any future work. Mosques quite often provide educational services to children and young people as well as to women. However, faith leaders themselves may have little knowledge of UK laws and legislation related to charitable proceedings including good governance, planning permission and child safeguarding.

The current media attention to incidents of violent extremism has contributed to a feeling of a lack of trust between official bodies and faith leaders thus making Mosques marginalised and withdrawn. This innovative project engaged local Mosques by enabling them to learn about relevant agencies such as the Charity Commission, the Safeguarding Children Board, the Metropolitan Police and local government service providers.

A key outcome of the project is to open dialogue and debates on sensitive issues such as radicalisation and the role that Mosques could play on community safety. In fact by promoting community collaboration between relevant stakeholders, including the multi-faith network, mutual trust will be reinstated which in turn will ease tensions and enable communities to respond appropriately to hate crimes and youth radicalisation. **Update**

1. **the ‘Safeguarding Children Information Pack’** for BAMER Community and Faith groups and Supplementary schools. The pack is available at the VAC website. Recently developed issue of radicalization and extremism as a form of child abuse is being explored to be added in the Information Pack.
2. **Update the Frequently Asked Questions** on forms of abuse including harmful practices such as FGM, abuses linked to beliefs, Forced & Under-age Marriage and Honour Based Violence. FAQs is available at VAC website
3. ‘**Protecting children in the community’– Round 8 training sessions** from May 2015 to March 2016 included 12 sessions for 12 BAMER, faith groups, 1 mainstream and supplementary schools . **173** local BAMER residents have participated **(53 male, 120 female**) ***Attachment 1 shows the number and statistic breakdown.***
4. On-going **review** work on child protection policies and procedures and support to all BAMER community, faith groups and supplementary schools.
5. **Advisory role**

The CPA has contributed as an Advisor to the following working groups, forums and initiatives:

1. *FGM Special Initiative Advisory Group*, a UK-wide Special Initiative to fund community-based preventive work to safeguard children from the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in all its forms. Approximately £1m has been invested in 15 organisations throughout England over a three-year period. The Forum is at its final stage and advice given on the future strategic development of the Initiative.
2. *NSPCC’ Protecting Muslim children’ initiative:* The purpose of the Advisory Group is to provide cultural knowledge and advice to ensure that those working with children in the Muslim communities are provided with and can access appropriate services that will safeguard and promote the welfare of children. A new initiative named ‘Parents safeguarding children in Madras’ was prioritise by the group
3. ‘*Advisory role at Family Services & Social Worker, to* *the MET Police Child Abuse Investigation Team* (CAIT) meetings on cases related to FGM
4. *‘-18 FGM Clinic ad hoc Advisory Group’* contribute to the health team after the setting up of the National -18 FGM clinic connected with research study on understanding diagnosis, management and complication of FGM in children under 18. The Group is at its final stage as the Clinic is now up and running
5. **Challenges**
6. Radicalization as a new emerging ‘child abuse’ form, how to address with sensitivity among Muslim community in Camden?
7. Difficulty of identifying key partners and sustaining lasting working relationships with Faith Groups and targeted community organisations.
8. Lack of comprehensive information of existing faith groups agencies in the borough and services that they are offering to children.
9. Service gaps include the need for Family Advocate for BAMER families engaged with the Social Service system. This would help restoring trust between BAMER families and statutory bodies involved with ‘a case’
10. Information on Private Fostering, Foster care and Adoption

Suggested actions:

1. *Explore support for mobile churches and local mosques on issues of planning permission and access to premises as well as of good governance*
2. *Coordinating training and workshops targeting faith groups that would address radicalization and extremism.*
3. *Recruit Family Advocate based in a neutral space that would link both families and the Social Service*
4. **Evaluation and monitoring process**

Suggested actions:

* *Measure the effectiveness of the training to the beneficiaries by undertaking a community led research study in order to know of any gaps and learning experiences.*
* *Review the VAC ‘****Changing Attitudes Project’*** *proposal that aims at measuring and analysing the extent of possible changes of harmful practise within practising communities.*

1. **Strengthening further the CPA Project**:

Key suggestions include:

1. Support local community groups to develop their own responses to needs in their community. (Example: create dialogue involving Met Police, Social Services, Mosques involving key community members in relevant forums, etc.)
2. Customise training package on Child protection to include identified local issues; e.g. parenting skills, truancy, private fostering, domestic violence etc.
3. Joint working between CPAs to offer a wide range of skills, experiences and cultural awareness. Work should be done in a thoughtful and respectful way and that there is a dialogue created. Statutory agencies need to learn about the experiences and needs of community members as well as imparting info about harmful childcare practices.
4. Identified information from discussions including anecdotal:
5. *Radicalization as an emerging form of child abuse.* Muslim community feels on the spot and needs more support in engaging and understanding all issues related to the topic
6. *BAMER communities still hold deep mistrust towards statutory child safeguarding service providers such as Social Services, Police, Schools and NHS*
7. *Through scenario exercise we learned to discuss hot and sensitive issues and look solution within.* *We have acknowledged that we got problems*.
8. *The training made me aware of different treatment that can be ‘child abuse’ according with the UK laws on child protection*
9. *Our organization needs training on how to put boundaries between teachers and pupils keep the distance needed, manage a balance between authority (discipline) and friendly ‘human’ approach*

**Appendix 1**

****Analysis of work data**

**‘*Protecting children in the community’ training sessions’* Round 8**

**01/05/2015 and 30/03/2016**

**1. Ethnicity 2. Partner Organisations**

| [**Ethnicity**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/index/yui-dt20-href-response) | [**Total**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/index/yui-dt20-href-Total) |
| --- | --- |
| Afghani | 19 |
| Colombian | 9 |
| White British | 12 |
| Bolivian | 1 |
| Russian | 1 |
| Arab | 11 |
| Sudanese | 12 |
| Tigrinya | 1 |
| Pakistani | 1 |
| Banglandeshi | 21 |
| Somali | 68 |
| Congolese | 12 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Type** | **date** | **No of participants** |
| Camden Arabic Association | *Supplementary School (Arabic)* | Sat. 18 May 15 | 18 (4 men + 14 women) |
| African Physical Training Organisation | *Community Organisation (Congolese)* | Sat. 11 July 15 | 14 (5men + 9 women) |
| Somali Youth Development & Resource Centre | *Youth organisation* | Tue. 6 October | 15 (11 men + 4 women) |
| Ihsaan Supplementary School | *Supplementary School (Somali)* | Wed.7 October | 16 (2 men + 14 women) |
| Calthorpe Project- Latino group | *Community Organisation* | Sat. 10 October | 13 (1 man + 12 women) |
| Camden Afghani Community | *Community Organisation (Afghani)* | Sat. 17 October | 17 women |
| North West Islamic Centre | *Faith + supplementary school* | Mon. 2 Nov | 14 (13 men + 1 woman) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Burundi | 1 |
| Albanian | 1 |
|  |  |
| Unknown | 1 |
| **Total** | 173 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Community Association for West Hampstead | *Community Organisation* | Thurs. 26November | 11 (3 men + 8 women) |
| Sudanese Children in Need | *Community Organisation*  (North Sudan) | Sat. 28 Nov | 13 (6 men + 7 women) |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Richard Cobden Primary School | *Mainstream School* | Wed. 2 Dec | 12 women |
| Hungerford Primary School | *Mainstream School* | Tue. 1 March 16 | 20 (2 men + 18 women) |
| Learning Zone | *Supplementary School (Bengali)* | Sat. 26 March 16 | 10 (4 men + 6 women |

**Total 12 organisations 173**

| [**Language**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/index/yui-dt24-href-response) | [**Total**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/index/yui-dt24-href-Total) |
| --- | --- |
| Urdu | 1 |
| Farsi | 3 |
| Pashto | 10 |
| Dari | 6 |
| Somali | 68 |
| Russian | 1 |
| Swahili | 1 |
| Lingala | 12 |
| English | 12 |
| Albanian | 1 |
| Bangladesh | 21 |
| Unknown | 1 |
| Spanish | 10 |
| Arabic | 23 |
| **Total** | **173** |

**3. Gender 4.Language**

| [**Gender**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/index/yui-dt21-href-response) | [**Total**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/index/yui-dt21-href-Total) |
| --- | --- |
| Male | 53 |
| Female | 120 |
| No data | 0 |
| **Total** | **173** |

**Appendix 2**

**Feedback Analysis**

**Protecting Children in the community' training sessions - Round 8 –**

**01 May 2015 – 31st March 16**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attended:** | 173 |  |  |  |  |
| **Forms Returned:** | 105 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Assessment Criteria** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Very Poor** | **Poor** | **Average** | **Good** | **Excellent** |
| How useful was the training in terms of gaining understanding of key safeguarding issues and leadership role in promoting the welfare of children? | 9 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 56 |
| How do you rate the relevance of the training in relation to your role? | 0 | 0 | 2 | 39 | 64 |
|  |  | **No impact** | **Average Impact** | **Huge impact** | No answer |
| How would you rate the impact of the training session on changing your attitude towards *culturally* accepted *harmful practises*? |  | 3 | 22 | 76 | 2 |
| Thinking about the session as a whole what other training would you need? |  | See below | See below | See below |  |

* + - 1. **Parental skills course**
      2. **Child care course leading to employment**
      3. **Child Protection training course – repeat and Level 2**
      4. **Responsibilities of volunteers and Trustees**
      5. **More information on Channel Panel**
      6. **First aid course- and for children**
      7. **Radicalization and extremism**
      8. **Safeguarding vulnerable adults-**
      9. **Anti-bullying training session**