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**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

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March 2014

1. **Background information**

This report is an update on the progress of the Community Partnership Project (CPA) for the year 2013-2014. It illustrates the background information, the complexity of working with community and faith groups, progress to date, challenges, achievements and issues arising outside the area of concerns. The report also suggests few actions.

CPA Project is about working with faith and communities organisations, supplementary, mainstream and weekend schools to encourage stronger working relationships and to promote the safeguarding of children in all areas of life.

The Community Partnership Project 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, Southwark

To date only 2 posts are still in place in LB Camden, and Hackney. Funding in LB Camden is secured until March 2015.

1. **Overview:**

The Camden Profile 2013 shows that 34% of Camden residents are from black or minority ethnic groups (increase from 27% in 2011). In Camden schools, Camden-resident children speak 131 languages and dialects with an increase from 126 from 2012. The most widely spoken languages are Bengali/Sylheti, Somali, Albanian and Arabic.

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 schools run by immigrant communities, many faith groups and voluntary youth clubs and projects.

The Community Partnership Advisor Project as a ‘conduit’ in channelling the information from the statutory service providers to BME communities and faith organisations as well as to the supplementary school has proven useful considering that it safeguarding children is ‘culturally’ a sensitive area for the target group.

Involving parents and carers from the targeted communities in the child safeguarding training planning and delivery has clearly helped the understanding of challenging culturally harmful traditions and also instilled faith about the roles and responsibilities of Children’s social care , Health service providers , Education and Met Police when it comes to issues of child protection.

The Steering Group of the Project is made of 6 members from the Camden LA - Quality Assurance Unit, Community Engagement Forum, a representative from BME community groups, Met Police- Child Abuse Team, School Inclusions, the NHS (Child clinic) and the CPA Line Manager

1. **Project aims and objectives:**

# 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.

# Empower BME community/faith organisations, supplementary and weekend schools in their quest of bringing changes related to harmful traditional practices.

# 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.

# Bridge any gaps in communication that may exist between statutory services and communities it serves.

# Support target organisations their shared responsibilities on safeguarding children agenda as well as help on accessing funding.

1. Role of the Community Partnership Advisor (CPA)

# To identify and work with BME communities and faith groups, supplementary and weekend schools within Camden and cross borough by offering training opportunities and links to statutory services on safeguarding children.

* To work with BME communities, faith groups and supplementary schools in increasing their knowledge and awareness of childabuse and harmful practices including FGM, abuse linked to belief, child trafficking, discipline in faith setting, forced marriage and honour based violence**.**
* To work with statutory child service providers in understanding the diversity within BME communities on child rearing and harmful traditions

1. **Methodology: Collaboration**

* 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
* Value the views of the community group members in the selection of priority issues
* Ownership of the training content by the beneficiaries
* Opportunity of involving key ‘community’ experts in the training with the aim of replicating this model to other BME communities
* Developing informal ‘*memorandum of understanding’* of what constitutes risk of harm and abuse within the cultural context by the service users.

1. **Work achieved**
2. **Update the Safeguarding Children Information Pack** for BME Community and Faith groups and Supplementary schools. The pack is available at the VAC website.
3. Round 6 included 9 training sessions on ‘**Protecting children in the community’–**from October 2013 to March 2014.
4. 125 local BME residents from 9 local community and faith groups as well as from supplementary schools have participated to the sessions. ***Attachment 1shows the number and statistic breakdown.***
5. On-going **review** work on child protection policies and procedures and support to all BME community, faith groups and supplementary schools.
6. 13 statutory organisations have been involved in the work of the Project as stakeholders.
7. **Fundraising work for and with the target groups –**

* *Unsuccessful:* 
  + Joint project proposal on Forced Marriage with Bengali Women’s Forum. The project has been shortlisted by the funder Trust 4 London but it has been unsuccessful.
* *Successful :*
* Successful bid from LB Camden- Safeguarding Children Board for ‘*Protecting children in the community’* Round 6 obtaining £ 8,580.
* *Pending* 
  + *‘Changing Attitudes’ Project Proposal .*The proposal aims to adopt a new approach of measuring any changes in attitudes and behaviours of BME residents toward their traditional practices that are recognized as ‘harmful’ by the UK safeguarding children laws. Funder: Comic Relief.
  + *‘Together against FGM’.* This is a joint pilot project with Arabic speaking community organisation on FGM type 1 and 4. Awaiting reply from Home Office.

1. **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 will advise on the strategic development of the Initiative.
2. *FGM Cross Governmental Forum*, an initiative for a coordinated and comprehensive response to FGM – The Forum is to make recommendations on how FGM should be tackled nationally.
3. *Mosques and Imams National Advisory Group (MINAB).* A database of more of 600 mosques and worship places in the UK, the group would advise on the prevention agenda and gender involvement in faith settings.
4. *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
5. *African Children Network* established by AFRUCA is to provide an opportunity for mutual learning and support among African communities and faith organisations working in the area of or interested in the safeguarding of African children in London. The Network also aims to bring to the attention of policy makers and practitioners issues and concerns regarding the protection needs of African children and their own experiences and expertise in addressing them.
6. ‘*Advisory role at Family Services & Social Worker, to* *the MET Police Child Abuse Investigation Team* (CAIT) strategic meetings on cases related to FGM and alleged abuse linked to beliefs. So far 3 alleged cases of FGM
7. *‘FGM clinical Team at UCH’* contribute to the health team on issues of community reach.
8. **Challenges**
9. **Difficulty of identifying key partners and sustaining lasting working relationships with Faith Groups and targeted community organisations.**
10. **Lack of information of existing faith groups agencies in the borough and services that they are offering to children.**

Actions suggested:

* + *Review the Directory of Faith groups dated 2002 including whether educational service is provided to children or/and private tutors are engaged with families.*
* *Explore support for mobile churches and local mosques issues of planning permission and access to premises*
* *Coordinating training and workshops targeting faith groups.* 
  + *Develop family and Community friendly communication channels, such as awareness raising days in community settings, jointly organised by BME community or faith organisations and relevant service providers.*

1. **Evaluation and monitoring process**

Action suggested:

* *Evaluate effectiveness of the training to the beneficiaries by undertaking a community led research study in order to know of any gaps and learning experiences.*
* *Support to ‘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, involving key community members in relevant forums, etc.)
2. Encourage community groups to input into local decision-making process. (Use local information sources to promote joint work)
3. Develop a joint agreed agenda on cultural values and the law of land with targeted groups.
4. Customise training package on Child protection to include identified local issues; e.g. parenting skills, truancy, private fostering, domestic violence etc.
5. Joint working between CPAs to offer a wide range of skills, experience 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.

Identified information from discussions including anecdotal:

a) *BME communities still hold deep mistrust towards statutory child safeguarding service providers such as Social Services, Police, Schools and NHS*

*b) Community members would rather not ‘snitch’ on their co-ethnic and co-religious members on child protection instances.*

1. Changing the perception that the law of the land and policies on child protection are here *‘to penalise’*; cultural practices. Participants of the training sessions should feel that when it comes to child safeguarding they too have a lot to contribute as it is a universal concept and ‘culture’ shouldn’t override it.
2. Assist community and faith groups to access resources for their own activities and help with premises for their functions.
3. **Things to be proud of and lessons learnt. Quotes:**

*‘UK laws are not there to punish my culture and belief but to protect my child too… even from certain practice/s that I never thought would be harmful’* a training participant.

*‘Learning from other cultures is always a gain but it also helping us why harmful certain practices get excused’* staff member from statutory body

*‘I got access to BME community and faith groups through this Project that I would otherwise struggle to gain access’*- staff member from statutory body

Attachment: 1

***‘Protecting children in the community’*- training session**

**Analysis of work data between 02/10/2013 and 10/03/2014**

**1. Ethnicity**

| [**Ethnicity**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt79-href-response) | [**Number of responses**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt79-href-val) | [**Total**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt79-href-Total) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Albanian | 1 | 1 |
| Egyptian | 1 | 1 |
| Algerian | 1 | 1 |
| Nigerian | 13 | 13 |
| Banglandeshi | 28 | 28 |
| Somali | 16 | 16 |
| Congolese | 21 | 21 |
| Yemenis | 6 | 6 |
| Sudanese | 13 | 13 |
| Nepalese | 1 | 1 |
| Afghani | | 21 | 21 |
| Eritrean | | 1 | 1 |
| Polish | | 1 | 1 |
| No data | | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **125** | **125** |

**2. Gender**

| [**Gender**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt104-href-response) | [**Number of responses**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt104-href-val) | [**Total**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt104-href-Total) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Male | 38 | 38 |
| Female | 86 | 86 |
| No data | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **125** | **125** |

**3. Language**

| [**Language**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt83-href-response) | | [**Number of responses**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt83-href-val) | [**Total**](https://www.lamplight3.info/en/yui-dt83-href-Total) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bengali | | 12 | 12 |
| Nepalese | | 1 | 1 |
| Farsi | | 6 | 6 |
| Yoruba | | 7 | 7 |
| Tigrinya | | 1 | 1 |
| Somali | | 16 | 16 |
| Polish | | 1 | 1 |
| Pashto | | 6 | 6 |
| Lingala | | 21 | 21 |
| Igbo | | 6 | 6 |
| Dari | 8 | 8 |
| Bangladeshi | 16 | 16 |
| Arabic | 21 | 21 |
| Albanian | 1 | 1 |
| No data | 2 | 2 |
| **Total** | **125** | **125** |

**4. Partner organisations**

| Organisation | Type | **No. Participants** | **Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| King Fahad Project | Arabic speaking newly established group | 9 | 18 Oct. 13 |
| Congolese Old People in UK | Congolese community | 12 | 4 Nov 13 |
| Asian Working Men Association | Also known as Surma Centre | 14 | 2 Dec. 13 |
| Sudanese Children in Need | supplementary school for Northern Sudanese kids | 13 | 7 Dec.13 |
| The Corner Stone Church | Pentecostal Church for Nigerian residents | 13 | 14 Dec.13 |
| Somali Management & Development Centre | Supplementary school | 15 | 18 Jan. 14 |
| Congolese Supplementary Schools Link in Camden | Supplementary School | 10 | 25 Jan. 14 |
| Somers Town Future | After school club for Bangladeshi community | 18 | 26 Feb. 14 |
| Afghan Community in Camden | Supplementary school for Afghani community | 21 | 8 March 14 |
| **Total organisation 9** |  | **125** | **9 sessions** |