

Description of the St James Church Hall meeting of 26th November 2001 between Refugees and Asylum seekers Participatory Action Research (RAPAR) and young Afghani men living in the locality and contacted through a combination of outreach from the Salford Refugee Health team and word of mouth.

Present:

Father Allan (local priest) and 2 women of St. James's parish
Cath Maffia and Colette Emerson from the Salford Refugee Health Team
Anne Marie Fell and Peter from Revive/Catholic Diocese
Zeinab Mohamed from the Somali Community
Hermione Lovel from the School of Primary Care at the University of Manchester
Rhetta Moran from the Revans Institute at the University of Salford
Mohamed Nazri and two Afghani men from the Broughton Library Meeting
8 local Afghani male asylum seekers housed in flats in the Salford Precinct area

The Afghani men came straight from college where they are all attending English language courses. They had been fasting all day for Ramadan and it was very cold so the men needed food and drink before the meeting could properly begin. Once everyone has eaten food provided by the Somali community and funded through RAPAR, the meeting began.

Rhetta briefly went through the background to being here:

...How Refugee and Asylum Seekers Participatory Action Research (RAPAR) came into being through people wanting to develop our abilities to be able to do action research with refugees and asylum seekers in the here and now....

...Wanting to build on work that has been in development over 5 years with and within our Somali community in Manchester: creating evidence that demonstrates what is needed by our refugee and asylum seeking communities and that goes about creating and collecting that evidence using an approach that, in itself, begins to help to meet those needs. e.g. Breaking down the social isolation by meeting together and thereby bringing together the processes and the procedures so that we both act and learn at the same time through conscious and aware research

...The decision to attempt to reach out to Afghani men in the locality and in the aftermath of September 11th

...The pledges of financial support already given by Salford PCT through the community health development team, by Salford Mental Health Trust and by Salford CVS.

...The fact that we do not have any answers....we have many questions...

...And our hope that this event, like the first meeting at Broughton Library with a different group of asylum seekers would be begin to break down the social isolation being experienced and mark the beginning of collaborative working between this

community and the shapers and deliverers of practical support services in health, social care and education.

Cath Maffia ran through some local opportunities:

1. Broughton Recreation centre, every Friday afternoon. Sports session. All welcome. Free. Currently working to start another session at Clarendon Baths. Contact Ameen Hadi
2. Room with computer available through Higher Broughton Health Centre. To be arranged via Nilofar Sheikh
3. Possibilities of setting up volleyball (all Afghani boys play volleyball at school). To be explored with the local council via Colette Emerson and Father Allan
4. Drop in every Wednesday morning between 9.30-11.30 at St James Parish Hall all asylum seekers welcome to use all resources available there

The men talked about their immediate priority which is how to deal with the trouble with the local boys. This takes the form of verbal and physical attacks by both young children and adult males in the local area. The Afghani men do not know what they should do about this. The group discussed the local police resources that includes a newly appointment liaison worker who would like to find out more about how the police can help. Zeinab Mohamed described some of the Somali experiences in relation to this issue. She stressed the need for the group to compile evidence about these attacks and communicate them to the local police. The group decided that some of the men should go to a local meeting about this issue and called in the wake of the attack on the Cromwell Road Hostel. The meeting is at 7.30pm at Broadwalk Library in the Salford Shopping Precinct on 27th November.

The group agreed to meet again

**10.00am
12th December,
St James Parish Hall
(on the side of the roundabout where Heywood Way and
Pendleton Way meet)
come to the back entrance of the hall - see Map attached**

Cath Maffia and Rhetta Moran to arrange for Krishna Kaur from the Greater Manchester Police to attend.