

Refugee and Asylum seeker Participatory Action Research

Minutes of the Meeting Held

Tuesday 16th July 2002, Salford Cathedral

Present:

Amanda Jones Said	-	Salford Local Authority & PCT
Ameen Hadi	-	Salford City Council
Anne Hayton	-	Social Services
Claire Beatson	-	Social Worker Hope Hospital
Fazil Jamal Mustafa	-	Kurdish Community
Keith Grayson	-	Refugee Action
Louise Kay	-	Community Outreach Advice Worker
Mark McDonnell	-	Salford CVS
Nilofer Shaikh	-	Salford PCT
Nicky Vincer	-	Pendleton College
Prita Jha	-	

Chair: Phil Davis - Refugee Action

In Attendance: Karen Whittaker - Salford PCT

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Rhetta Moran, Geoff Kirkman, Maria Thornton, Cath Maffia, Alena Canty, Hermione Lovel and Mai Mason.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were several amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting:

Policing – On the 19th June a team of Geoff Kirkman, Cathy Mafia, Linda Corfield, Lynn Wallwork, Suzanne Hindle and Peter Fell, met to arrange a meeting with Kurdish men on the 22nd of July at St Bonafaces Church in line with the wishes of RAPAR. No-one at that meeting identified a problem with that date and we proceed to plan and invite senior police officers and other interested professionals. Unfortunately this meeting has been cancelled by RAPAR, which has resulted in well-prepared plans being scrapped. It is hoped to revisit a meeting as soon as people from the community are available.

Community Empowerment Fund – The £6K has been credited and the balance is still waiting for a brief report to be written before being released.

Keith Grayson was present, not as sending his apologies.

3. Progress on Actions

Finance – Cath Mafia Has spoken to Maeve Keaney about administering finances but there has been no progress so far. Mark McDonnell has approached volunteer groups for help but nothing has emerged so far.

List of Community Classes – Nicky Vincer from Pendleton College distributed a timetable of classes that will be continuing / Starting in September.

EMTAS – Update needed.

Steve Thompson – No action.

Dancing Event – Nicky Vincer explained that the De La Salle site would be available to hold an event on a Wednesday or Thursday in term time. Nicky and Fazil are to liaise further.

Community Development Team Accommodation – Cath Mafia and Phil Greenham went to see the premises. It is not confirmed but thought likely that the premises will be taken.

4. Community Racial Relations

Krishna Kaur the Community and Race Relations Officer from Greater Manchester Police came to address the group. Krishna explained that GMP had received a £10k government grant to be used to raise drug awareness, laws of the land etcetera to ethnic communities. She proposed that the group use some of this money.

Mark McDonnell suggested that he would go back to his colleagues to ascertain whether the money could be used to help fund existing projects.

The group decided that it would be more practical for proposals for projects to be tabled at the next meeting to apply for a grant from this money.

5. Personal Safety Training

Ameen Hadi explained that Asylum Seekers have no great knowledge about the laws of the land. Ameen met with a local policeman about personal safety training and discussed some of the issues that faced asylum seekers such as knowing their rights, legal frameworks including sentencing for petty crimes and self-protection. On the 16th of August a Pilot Programme consisting of a 1 ½ hour information session will be run by the police to inform asylum seekers of all of these issues.

The point was made that a 'Rights Card' should be created and distributed with essential information for asylum seekers on their rights. Nicky Vincer suggested that these cards could be distributed through the community classes. It was also suggested that professional legal advice should be sought when putting together this information and that the Community Development Team could get involved.

6. Community Development Team

Nilofer Shaikh explained to the group that there had been a good response to the job adverts, and short listing and interviewing would take place soon. When the team is established it is important to forge links with other communities around Manchester.

It was highlighted that there was a need for steering group to police the distribution of the SRB funding and a decision was taken to invite a refugee action representative to the steering group.

7. Any Other Business

Sport – Ameen Hadi explained that Salford City Council have offered a deal that costs £20 a month for unlimited use of their leisure facilities per person. It was suggested that RAPAR could have a corporate membership and have a number of cards available to be used in a rota system. Ameen is to negotiate a price and report back to the group at the next meeting.

Action: Ameen Hadi

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 17th September, 4pm at Salford Cathedral.