

MINUTES

RAPAR Information Sharing Meeting

Tuesday 18th November 2003 10.00am - Salford Cathedral

1. Present:

Nilofer Shaikh, SPCT. 212 4581. nilofer.shaikh@salford-pct.nhs.uk (Chair)
Donna Hewitt, Salford Rapar Project. 743 0861
Lorraine Hall, Connections. 743 0163 lorraine.hall@betterchoices.co.uk
Jessica Meighton-Ntsibat, EMTAS. 705 0875
Mohammad Saeed, Kurdish Committee of Salford. 07729 173652
Joan Morgan, GMP. 856 5139. Joan.Morgan@GMP.Police.uk
Mike Scantlebury, Salford Community Network. 707 0507
Sue Longstaff, Linda Taylor Associates (Minutes)
Susan@slongstaff.fslife.co.uk

2. Introductions from attendees and apologies from Cath Maffia and Rhetta Moran. Nilofer apologies that the minutes from the last meeting had not been sent out as Donna mentioned that not everyone had received the minutes. It was felt that in any case, the 4.00pm meeting was usually better attended than the 10.00am meeting.
3. Matters from previous meeting: Jessica said that her name was spelt slightly incorrectly on the last minutes which has now been amended. Under item 4 on the last minutes (re future of Rapar), Nilofer thought that some people had put their names down as being interested in becoming trustees. Mohammad had put his name down, Lorraine was also interested but hadn't put her name down previously, Mike had also volunteered. Need to get an AGM sorted out quickly. Lorraine/Jessica will look into the conference in Manchester which no one had heard about. North West Consortium - add to their mailing list. Jessica -talked about the Smart group - Electronic meeting place/information share. If you register with this service they will send out an e-mail with future events. Lorraine thought that one got invited in by members. Lorraine/Jessica to look into this and let everyone know. Mike from networking group - reported work with Salford Rapar, a press launch has been organized, date for launch - Monday 15th December at 10.00am at Swinton Civic Centre. Have contacted Councillor Salmon who has agreed to attend. Salford Rapar will be giving a presentation. Press will attend for approximately half an hour, and then there will be time for chat.

4. Administrator post: Nilofer asked if anyone had received information about this post. No one had except Mike. Nilofer got the information to check but didn't realise the advert had gone out. It was agreed that a job description was needed and it was suggested a small group get together after today's meeting to do this. Not sure where the job actually got advertised. Possibly Cath Maffia can shed light on this and Nilofer will look into this. Things to do:
 - Need to extend the deadline for applicants and to make sure everyone on the mailing list has the information about the post.
 - Need to sort out an application form to send to people who have applied. Nilofer has a list of people who rang, forms need to be sent to them with job description a.s.a.p.
 - Also need to draw a person specification shortlist and interview dates.
 - Small group to meet re above on wed 19th 3.00 - 4.00 pm
5. Accounts: Nilofer received information from Cath re Rapar accounts. Charity - Nilofer and Cath to get together to do this - anyone from the group can be involved. Anyone interested? No response. Currently the PCT accountant is helping as Rapar have lost their treasurer. Cath is still in contact with the old treasurer but they need someone to take over this role from Andy Lowe, the accountant.
6. AGM: It was decided by all that this should be discussed at the next meeting as hopefully by that time an administrator will have been appointed and this person can be involved. Hopefully January/February time.
7. Postal address: Cannot use Cathedral address as postal address although can still have meetings at the Cathedral. Why can't we use Rapar address? Donna - it causes confusion if using Rapar address. Joan - where will admin post be based? Nilofer - still to be decided. Donna - Salford rapar could be a possible base. Nilofer - when worker starts, mail can be addressed to her so it shouldn't get lost, but would have to have Rapar in address. Joan - emphasise when writing out the difference between Rapar and Salford Rapar. Donna feels postal situation has got better as Rapar has become more established now. Worker may have to work from home or via an agency such as Alldaypa or similar. Other suggestions were a PO Box, although this can be costly.
8. Kurdish group funding: Mohammad - awaiting Rapar's decision on using Rapar's bank account. Mohammad applied to CvS for funding. Nilofer spoke to Rebecca - Cath to give account number of Rapar where money will go.

Nilofer to e-mail Rebecca. Mohammad will arrange bank account as soon as possible. Mohammed mentioned that they were trying to organise a Kurdish drop in centre. The Kurdish group has no base at present - just using mobile phones etc. Joan suggested he contact Prospect Housing to see if they could help with a meeting place. Kurdish group are independent from IAG. Applying for Community Chest funding.

9. Rapar funded projects: Donna - Asylum Seekers/Refugee Projects Saturday School come together at St Georges Family Centre. 10.00-12.30 on Saturday mornings. (Langley Road South). The project has been going for 6 weeks and has been quite successful. Lots of children attending. A couple of children who go, don't attend normal schools. There are issues around why this is the case and why these children don't want to go to school. These children do enjoy going to the Saturday school as there is a good atmosphere and they can enjoy themselves. It is for 5-17 year old and the subjects are English and Maths. The objective is to try and enhance learning at school. Jessica mentioned that she knows of one child who has been placed at a school in Swinton because there is no support for him at the school nearest to where he lives in Little Hulton (Harrop Fold). Need to look into what support can be made available in schools. Self-esteem in these children is low - we do not know what they have been through and the teachers and schools certainly don't. How is a child supposed to function in school when he doesn't understand what the teachers are saying? EMTAS are overstretched, they can help but wouldn't be able to do a full day at each school and fully support each child. EMTAS however will put together a support package but teachers should also take responsibility to incorporate children into the lessons. Donna - lack of awareness that teachers have. Don't know what experiences the children have gone through and yet they're expecting them just to fit in. There is a totally non-existent knowledge of the issues. Jessica - no info on what the children may have faced. EMTAS have invited schools to awareness day seminar but may not be able to cover enough schools. Donna - there are two qualified teachers at the Saturday school and some volunteers. Will try to put volunteers on classroom assistant training course. Dona also attends on Saturday and has chatted to women there - amazing and valuable information has come out of this. Sri Lankan and Somali group are main attenders at project but it is open to others and is non-exclusive. They were given £1,000 start up and have been awarded money from the Children's Fund to expand. Need to empower people themselves to keep it going. Not Salford Rapar's project - it is a community project but Rapar are there for guidance. Mike - Network produced a comic based on people's stories of where they come from. Donna -

building on it and turning it into a book is the long-term aim. Perhaps work on this at the Saturday school.

Joan - presentation on users of Rapar and relations with police. Possible arrange for local Bobbies to come and introduce themselves to the communities. Police need to get to know the asylum seekers. Break down barriers between the police and the asylum seeker community. Police are not sure of issues surrounding asylum seekers. Letters sent out to victims of crime are in English only so asylum seekers cannot understand them and therefore are not pursuing any crimes against them. Police are not sensitive enough to issues. Joan to set up meeting to get issues across to the police. Jessica - is it not part of their induction training? Joan - it is but it is not ongoing and also not sure to what extent it is covered. Limited idea issues but not issues of asylum seekers. Women are not reporting attacks - bus drivers in Salford not allowing Somali women on buses! Strong need for this to be dealt with. Joan will invite new Inspector or Superintendent Alison Fletcher to Rapar meeting. Mohammad talked about racist attack on 5 people where only one police officer attended. Joan to organise forum to discuss. Nilofer mentioned Longsight (Joan - C Division) have come a long way in dealing with minority groups. Re reporting of racist incidences, they can report to designated community centers. Joan will be visiting Longsight and look into this. There should be a multi-agency forum to deal with hate crime. No Law Centre in Salford.

10. Trustee Support Meeting: Wednesday 19th November. Nilofer will let Cath know.

11. Next asylum meeting: **16th December 2003 -4.00-6.00pm at Salford Cathedral.**