

Minutes from Refugee and Asylum Seeker Participatory Action Research (RAPAR), 18th December 2001, 10.00am, Cathedral House, Chapel Street, Salford

Present Rhetta Moran (Revans Institute), Stephen Young (Salford Mental Health Services), Ann-Marie Fell (Revive), Tracey English (Central Mcr PCT), Phil Davis (Refugee Action), Chris White (GMP Salford), Bogusia Temple (Salford Uni), Cath Maffia (Salford PCT), Amanda Jones-Said (Red Cross), Kevin Mossop (Trafford Asylum Seekers Team), Mark McDonnell (Salford CVS), Nilofer Shaikh (Community Health Project), Louise Kay (Salford ERP), Zeinab Mohamed (Somali Refugee Support Group), Joanne Miller (MCR HA)

Apologies May Mason, Paul Gray, Lynn Wallworth, Dawn Peters

1 Policing – Chris White reported on work done with Salford Police to counteract racial harassment of asylum seekers. They have agreed a code of conduct with the Local Authority. Right now only the police log racist incidents (being any incident perceived to be racist by any person). Anyone can pass on information about a racist incident to help the police build a picture. Following the meeting held at Salford crescent between RAPAR and the police, appropriately translated versions of a reporting protocol and a ‘contact card’ are in production by Greater Manchester Police that will be distributed via our networks to asylum seekers in Salford. Right now there is no Greater Manchester level approach to the harassment of asylum seekers.

Action – The police to be invited to business meetings to participate as members of RAPAR, apart from reserved business. Any community development work with asylum seeker groups will not involve the police unless they are specifically invited.

2 Department of Health draft Guidelines for working with refugees and asylum seekers were circulated for comment

Actions:

i) Email guidelines to all RAPAR members for their comments

ii) Cath, Mark and Rhetta to respond on refugee involvement and language / labelling

iii) Hermione Rhetta and Zeinab to respond on long term health issues

iv) Phil and Joanne use GMR smartgroup to get list of groups across Greater Manchester involved in health to distribute guidelines to

3 Funding bids

SRB 5 Submission – Nilofer and Rhetta leading on bid for 3 action research posts for asylum seeker support in Salford. If accepted will need to be worked up in more detail

ESRC – Bogusia and Rhetta have submitted a bid for a series of seminars on working with (not just using) asylum seekers in research projects

Community Fund – A bid is being worked on by Bogusia and Rhetta with a focus on developing action plans and developing new approaches to supporting and empowering asylum seekers

Rhetta has made an application to the Scarman Trust for £2000 of ‘seedcorn money’.

2

4 Mental Health Conference. Zeinab reported on the proposed Refugee Support Group mental health conference. This is being supported by Refugee Action and should involve Jane Johnstone from Mental Health Partnership. It will focus on presenting refugee experiences and critical input from academics and practitioners to decision makers.

Action: Rapar to cooperate and attend

5 Joanne Miller wished to put RAPAR's aims for approval by Primary Care Trusts. This might lead to financial support in the future.

Action: Rhetta, Hermione, Zeinab, Phil & Cath to write a paper for submission.

In the longer term a response to the post Oldham and Bradford reports would also be required.

6 Salford CVS have got 2 Afghani young men connected up through RAPAR on their community leadership course

7 SCVS have offered 6 months support to RAPAR managing funds.

Action: With regard to long term structure Mark Macdonald will present a paper at the next meeting.

Action: Phil to try to put a graphic designer in touch with RAPAR to help asylum seekers design a letterhead

8 The list of people prepared to act as contacts for RAPAR's development work is now

Rhetta Moran	295 5277	r.moran@salford.ac.uk
Cath Maffia	212 4451	
Mark McDonnell	787 7795	Mark.McDonnell@Salfordcvcs.co.uk
Nilofer Shaikh	212 4581	
Phil Davis	233 1210	PhilipD@refugee-action.org.uk
Hermione Lovel	256 3015	h.lovel@man.ac.uk

9 It would be good to broaden the community meetings to other refugee communities.

Action There will be a planning meeting for the next community meeting held at the Revans Institute at 2pm on the 10th Jan.

AOB

To increase the contribution from refugees and asylum seekers, any RAPAR member can (and is encouraged to) invite a refugee or asylum seeker to any RAPAR meeting

Date of next business meeting:

**Tuesday 22nd January
10.00-12.00
Salford Cathedral House
Chapel Street**