

Notes from the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Participatory Action Research (RAPAR) Meeting held on Tuesday, 25.9.01 at 10.00am at the Revans Institute, University of Salford

Present:

Hanif Bobal, AWAAZ, Greater Manchester
Anne Marie Fell, Salford Catholic Diocese
Hermione Lovel, School of Primary Care, University of Manchester
Mark McDonnel, Salford CVS
Zeinab Mohamed, Somali Community Representative
Rhetta Moran, Revans Institute, University of Salford
Nilofer Shaikh, Health Development, Salford Primary Care Trust
Maria Thornton, R & D Manager, Salford Primary Care Trust
Steve Young, Salford Mental Health Trust/Revans Institute

Apologies:

Simon Aldridge, R & D Lead, Salford Primary Care Trust
David Botham, Revans Institute
Bill Davies, Head of Asylum Seeker Team, Manchester Social Services
Phil Davies, Refugee Action Manchester
Bill Gulam, Salford AUT
Miranda Kaunang, Save the Children
Veronic Leeks, Revans Institute
Lena Livesey, Asylum Seeker Team, Manchester Social Services
Cath Maffia, Refugee Health Visitor, Salford Primary Care Trust
Ed Mynott, Department of Community Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University
Bogusia Temple, Institute for Health Research, University of Salford

1. Global Events

No agenda was set for this meeting to enable an open discussion to take place on the significance of recent events in the USA and their impact on the group's work with refugees and asylum seekers. The group felt that although recent events create obstacles and barriers, they were keen to continue the work. Members reported on the fear and anxiety being experienced at this time within our Muslim communities in general and our Aghani communities in particular. The group reaffirmed the need for commitment to this initiative from senior people in the agencies involved.

Action: All members to secure commitment from Chief Executives asap

2. Bid for research funding

A bid has been submitted to the Economic and Social Research Council for research on our priority area: young men. The status of the bid will not be known until late October

Action: All members to keep an eye out for any research funding opportunities and pass them through to Rhetta

3. Mapping.

The group discussed the importance of mapping out what is work is currently going on with refugees and asylum seekers on the ground level, based on evidence and not on hearsay. This will need funding and a dedicated person to undertake this work.

4. Present priority

The group discussed the need for us to identify what is needed now, and what the group can do to help. The group is in a good position to facilitate the cross community sharing of experiences, to identify what has been useful to other groups in the past and how this can be applied to groups today. The group has established contacts with local refugees and asylum seekers. It is vital to increase the number of translators. It is essential to capture people's experiences to create case studies and to disseminate this information to senior people within organisations as well as people delivering services.

The group decided to arrange an event to be held at Salford Catholic Cathedral on Chapel Street, Salford on Saturday, 27.10.01 from 3.00-6.00pm. The aim is to bring together afghani asylum seekers and people from the Somali community to share a social event, exchange their experiences, encourage people to tell their stories and to create a record. It is anticipated that this event will be the catalyst to initiating wider discussion and action.

Action: Maria, Nilofer and Rhetta to approach Neil Jenkinson from Salford Primary Care Trust for a sum of money to fund translators, creche workers, transport and food and to pay for the editing of a video record of the event.

A planning meeting will be held on **Monday, 8.10.01 at 3.00pm at Salford Catholic Cathedral on Chapel Street, Salford** to organise the event.

5. Securing funding

The group discussed the need for a sum of money to kick-start their participatory action research processes, ideally from the agencies involved, but excluding voluntary sector/community sector agencies such as Refugee Action.

The CVS is going to explore the possibility of offering a bursary of £1,000 to enable individuals to receive training to build community development skills, and recompense agencies for the person's time.

Action: All members to explore whether they can secure seed corn money from their respective agencies that will enable to group to consolidate their activities more quickly

6. New Venue: Into the community

From now on the meetings are going to take place in the buildings of the Salford Catholic Diocese. The group was very happy that, at this relatively early stage, the initiative is in a position to physically move out of the academic setting where it began and into the community and was delighted to accept the kind offer from our Catholic sisters and brothers.

**Next meeting of RAPAR:
Salford Catholic Cathedral, Chapel Street, Salford
Tuesday 30th October
10.00-12.00**