

**Date and time of next RAPAR organisation and development meeting at Salford
Cathedral House, Chapel Street, Salford:**

**Tuesday 23 April 2002
4.00 – 6.00 pm**

All are welcome

Please note time: 4.00pm, not 10.00 am!!

**(The May Meeting will be held on
Tuesday 21 May 10.00 – 12.00,
Salford Cathedral House, Chapel Street, Salford)**

**Refugee and Asylum seeker Participatory Action Research
(RAPAR)**

Contact numbers:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Dr Rhetta Moran | 295 5277 |
| Cath Maffia | 212 4451 |
| Mark McDonald | 787 7795 |
| Nilofer Shaikh | 212 4581 |
| Phil Davis | 233 1210 |
| Dr Hermione Lovel | 256 3015 |

**MINUTES FROM THE REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER
PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (RAPAR) MEETING HELD ON 26
MARCH 2002 AT CATHEDRAL HOUSE, CHAPEL STREET, SALFORD**

Present:

Maria Thornton (Salford PCT), , Mohammed Nazri (Afghan refugee), Fazil Jamal (asylum seeker), Aso Baram (Kurdish asylum seeker), Sardar Kaki (Kurdish asylum seeker), M H Saeed (Kurdish asylum seeker), Anisa Dani (University of Manchester, Museum, Department of Education), Erica Ramsay, (Manchester Museum), Phil Greenham (PCT Salford), Phil Davies (Refugee Action), Simko Braska, (Kurdish), Keith Grayson (Refugee Action), Maggie Oldham (G.M.W.D.C. NHS), Ali Namegoshayefard (Iranian asylum seeker), Nilofer Shaikh (Community Health Coordinator, PCT), Ameen Hadi (Salford Community Safety), Satkunasingam Manjula (Tamil asylum seeker), Amanda Said (Red Cross), Mark McDonald (Salford CVS)

Chair: Cath Maffia (Salford PCT)

Minutes: Hermione Lovel (University of Manchester, School of Primary Care)

Apologies:

Rhetta Moran (Revans Institute for Action Learning and Research, University of Salford), Bogusia Temple (Institute for Health and Social Care, University of Salford), Mr Latif Ebadi (Iranian refugee), Bill Davies (Mancehster City Council Asylum Seeker Team)

1. Minutes of previous meeting, 27.02.02

- 1.1. Latif Ebadi is Iranian, not Kurdish
- 1.2. 9th March date for Women working together in Salford .
- 1.3. After these corrections minutes accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1. **Further detention.** Abdullah Rahmatullah, a lynchpon of the Afghani community in Salford, a key member of RAPAR, and a Salford sponsored Community leadership Programme member was detained at Dallas Court

when he signed on last Friday. He is now at Harmondsworth. The Home Office intend to deport Abdullah to Austria although he only spent 3 hours in Austria en route to the UK. Several organisations are already involved in stopping the deportation. Faxes are being sent to the Home Office by organisations and individuals. Refugee Action is to help contact The Guardian via a communications agency. RAPAR is in touch with a charitable organisation in Austria.

2.2. Police liaison with Refugee Action. Phil Davis reported that the Youth project in Liverpool has developed a Rights Card for young asylum seekers which may also be useful to Greater Manchester. **Action: Phil Davis is organising a meeting with Krishna Kaur (Police).**

2.3. Funding

- 2.3.1. **SRB.** Nilofar Shaikh and Rhetta Moran met Dinah Martin, there is a new form to complete, followed by a panel interview. The initial bid has been successful for 4 full time posts, one for 3 years in the Salford area.
- 2.3.2. **The Childrens Fund** has some money available (Linda Caulfield). The PCT is to use this to extend Cath Maffia's post as Health Visitor for asylum seekers.
- 2.3.3. **The Scarman Trust** in Nottingham has £30 Million national lottery money. It is a grass roots organisation, to set up businesses. Rhetta Moran went to meet them recently on behalf of RAPAR.
- 2.3.4. **RAPAR financial structure:** Mark McDonald (CVS) reported that the structure is now formed to manage RAPAR funding.
- 2.3.5. **Community Fund** – the deadline was today for approx £230000 research monies over 3 years. Mark has sent a letter from CVS saying that they are managing the accounts, along with the minutes of the meeting when the constitution was adopted. A summary of the bid is to be circulated.
Action: Bogusia Temple to circulate bid summary.

2.4. Education

2.4.1 Adult education

- 2.4.1.1. There is an event this afternoon at **Salford Playhouse** by the **Employment and Regeneration Partnership**. They are setting up a **weekly drop-in session** and hope to run **language sessions** there, as the venue is paid for already and is convenient, with less travelling costs.
- 2.4.1.2. **MANCAT** Sylvan Comerbach, staff. Some **education** is available for **14/15** year olds, who are finding it difficult to get into schools where there are no secondary school places available. They can put pressure to get into Manchester. (Linda Elliot Weinberg is the Education link in Salford).

2.5. Mental Health Conference & Refugees providing Refugee Training for services professionals and other initiatives. Phil, Mohammed, Zeinab.

- a) The Regional Mental Health Conference is to be held sometime in the future.
- b) Through The Refugee Support group, some internal training of the staff of Mental Health Partnership to be on 22 May as a Training Day. The venue is to be arranged by the Mental Health Partnership.
- c) Refugee Action - North Manchester Primary Care Team are developing **Refugee training to deliver Refugee Training for Services Professionals on 2nd May.**

Action Everyone: Supply names of people with good English and training delivery experience

2.6. Constitution. RAPAR now has the official certificate and company number of the limited company. Officers have been elected and a volunteer Graphic designer is now identified by Phil Davis. This means that RAPAR can now go for charitable status.

Action Mark setting charitable status in motion.

2.7. Accommodation

2.7.1. A formal response has been received from Janice Samuels from the **City of Salford Housing**. The 14 day notice is being extended to 28 days notice by NASS.

Salford Action includes

- i. Supported tenancy schemes to help people in early months (Jean Rollinson).
- ii. North West Consortium will have refugee integration forms with cross authority worker to help across the region.
- iii. To minimise rehousing, there will be liaison with the homeless team once NASS 35 has been received.
- iv. Will inspect private landlords accommodation and place people in these.
- v. Will strengthen Council asylum seekers team (but has not yet met this year).

2.7.2. Portico Homes 2 Jo Street are fast tracking asylum seekers for Salford residence. Asylum seekers need to take their NASS 35, job seekers allowance and a letter from the Benefits Agency (DSS) (to show in receipt of benefits).

2.7.3. NASS 35s are still being issued too slowly- no action being taken.

2.7.4. A fast track National Insurance number system is developing in Manchester. This was reported by Phil Davis

2.7.5. One Stop Shop. Querying what will happen after 4 years exceptional leave to remain.

Action: Accommodation group to report to next RAPAR meeting on this issue.

Any exceptional leave to remain less than 12 months is very difficult for benefits.

Action: Everyone to report to Phil Davis anyone with exceptional leave ELR less than 1 year

2.8. Health Subgroup An application is being submitted to Salford LRec Ethics Committee for auditing Cath Maffia's Salford Health Visitor Asylum Seekers records with extra manpower from a 4th year medical student.

2.9. Sports Subgroup (Amin)

2.9.1. The group has not met yet as it needs an offer for the use of facilities from Sports and Leisure from Salford University.

2.9.2. **Clarendon Recreation is opening in May.** Had a meeting with neighbourhood coordinator, Julie MacKinnon and Community Development Worker, Fred Priest. They are interested in principle.

2.9.3. Salford University may offer an individual rate but prefer a group rate for using the Sports Hall or Gym; the group is going back to discuss this with management and will be meeting in the next few weeks.

2.9.4. **Broughton evening session is being planned for Tuesdays.** Should start in the next few weeks (any age).

2.9.5. **Broughton 2.00 – 3.00 pm Friday** is still going, it's a **football friendly, & weights, currently negotiating** 3.00 - 4.00 pm swim.

2.9.6. Willow Road Rugby Club may be interested to help.

2.9.7. CHD nurse Rebecca Paige has cardiovascular equipment available (The PCT has negotiated its availability for staff, may be able to extend to others).

2.9.8. Contacts with private gyms.

Action: by Rebecca Paige. Amin to follow up with her.

2.9.9. Salford has received 7 Health Challenge Awards. These were given for building up health in the Community. They want to work with partnerships/alliances.

Action: Maria to provide information to Sports group.

2.9.10. Salford PCT has a deal with Salford University for staff passes.

Action: Nilofer to provide information to Sports group.

2.9.11. Refugee and Asylum seeker Football Funday, Sunday 16 June. The event is free. There will be food available. prizes

- want volunteers
- information stalls on health
- information
- ? to be held at Ducie Academy
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2.10. Healthy Salford Fair 29 May. Nilofer has booked a stall. There is approximately £50- £100 available for RAPAR for community groups. There is a CD Rom available with information issues for asylum seekers. The stall may have if running.

Action: Everyone, Information and pictures needed from all RAPAR organisations, including photos from the Museum project.

To be sent to:

Nilofer Shaikh, (phone number at start of minutes)

2.11. The Pendleton project. Housing, health, youth, crime, 10 year programme to be developed

Already have £1000 and developing 20 week programmes e.g. pollution and monitors, sexual health issues, mental health issues

Also integration activities – Community Health action group

- shopping trip to Sheffield
- sharing art work ...
- Littleton Road Authority Centre Kersall

2.12. 23 June Refugee Support Network annual Refugee cultural event at Zion Centre. Need to link in art/craft work – museum.

Action: Manchester Museum to contact Phil Davis and Mrs Akram's needlework group via Phil Greenham.

2.13. Manchester Museum Refugee project Telling Our Lives and improving Wellbeing is building bonds between the women in the group (mainly Somali, Sudanese and Afghani). To extend programme from 15th May? Other projects planned include Many Journeys.

Action: Museum to please send Telling Our Lives and Improving Wellbeing project info to all members of RAPAR

2.14. Little Acorn Accommodation Project. The day is still to be arranged

2.15. Centre for Kurdish Community (Fasil Jamil)

2.15.1. Current Kurdish drop-in (Fazil)

Catherine House (CAFOD)

26 Singleton Road

Broughton Park.

Thursdays 10-12

(Anne Marie and Peter Fell & Cath go regularly)

2.15.2. **For further development-** Refugee Action can help with funding. Possible use of space at the Zion Centre, Angel Street has been agreed. The centre has a café and will have a medical team and complimentary therapies available. Needs routes of transportation to all Salford/Manchester Precinct Centre area. Could link to Manchester Kurdish Community.

2.16. **A Greater Manchester Refugee Centre** (Phil) is being developed through Manchester Refugee Support Network. Talk in Manchester City Council as hub and spoke organisation development to support project groups.

2.17. **Resources for Children.** Rhetta and Refugee Support Network are preparing a bid to the Diana Fund.

2.18. Events

2.18.1. Salford Social Action Research Action Network conference at Lowry Centre. Useful contacts were made.

2.18.2. **Museum Telling our Lives and the Wellbeing Initiative.** A Channel 4 drama documentary is being prepared in Museum Telling our lives.

2.18.3. **International Women Day.** This went well. Cath Maffia, Nilofer Shaikh

2.18.4. **Salford Health Improvement meeting tomorrow** and consultation.

2.18.5. Greater Manchester Refugee Smart Group email network for 140 people
Action: Anyone not yet on group write to Phil Davis to request being put on it

2.18.6. **Finland.**

a) Somali community links developed further by Hermione Lovel. Great concerns about the difficulties accessing health care, racism and isolation.

b) Links have been forged with Museum of Cultures Education Department.

c) Links have been discussed with the University of Helsinki.

2.18.7. Maggie Oldham, Greater Manchester NHS (01706 754223) will be recruiting staff. **Refugees could help to meet the shortages of nurses.** She has 12 month post to identify pathways to nursing and other professions. This compliments Maeve Keaney's work on refugee doctors. The names of two nurses are to be supplied by Cath Maffia and one by the Red Cross (Amanda).

Engineers and teachers are also available? Need to find out who is helping them. Maeve Keaney knows of organisations. **Action Maggie to follow up.**

2.19. **Shortage occupations and RETAS** (refugee education and training advisory service) from the World University Service. Click links section on Refugee Smart Group. 600 nurses were brought into Greater Manchester last year at huge expense. They want to encourage into pre-registration nursing. There is a problem of lack of paperwork/certificates. Tower Hamlets Health Authority has helped people gain certificates.

2.20. **Request for information on courses for training in Counselling needed.** (Amanda, Red Cross). Former Multicultural Counselling Team at Stockport may know. Two volunteers at Red Cross accessing Breathing Space project counselling course.

Need cooking demonstrators, e.g. what to do with a swede, for events & business opportunity. There could be Food at Salford Health Fair. Women's Centre Salford has a different recipe each day. WEA (Amanda) organises Asian cookery, Arabic cookery tutors, also have Afghans who can prepare excellent food.

Action : Nilofar to ask Zeinab Mohamed to follow up for Fair

2.23 **Interpreters are needed for GP –**

- Farsi is needed in Chorlton.
 - Language Interpretation Manchester City Council Service 234 5000
 - Need Kurdish for Salford Link
 - Stockport language services in Edgely
 - Also Greenhey
 - Also City College Professional
 - Greater Manchester Interpretation Service developing by Refugee Action free for non-statutory organisations.
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- Language line costs £2.00 per minute.
 - NHS Direct will get a language line interpreter.
 - Some translation services in other areas e.g. Oldham, Thameside

2.24 **Social event for Kurdish Community** . Fazil to organise with Mark in 4 weeks time.

Dates and times of the next two RAPAR organisation and development meeting at Salford Cathedral House, Chapel Street, Salford:

4 pm Tuesday 23rd April
10 – 12 am Tuesday 21st May