

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Pan-London Project for safeguarding children across culture and faith Operations Group	
Date:	13 th December 2010	
Time:	10.00 – 12.00pm	
Location:	London Councils	
Chaired by:	Christine Christie, London Councils Children's Services	
Attendees:		
Emma Aiyere, Bexley	Leethen Bartholomew, Hackney	Howard Baines, Sutton
David Pearson, CCPAS	Kellie-Ann Fitzgerald, Newham	Amanda Harry, Greenwich
Justin Bahunga, AFRUCA	Angela Bent, Enfield	Karen Walkden, Barnet
Christine Christie, London Councils	Mor Dioum, VCF	
Apologies:		
Simon Deakin, Merton	Kay Bell, Safeguarding Children Adviser	Claire Whetstone, Enfield
Nasheen Singh, Merton	Monawara Bahkt, Tower Hamlets	Angela Bent, Enfield
Aqualma Murray, Haringey	Sue Matthews, Brent	Elaine Ryan, Safe Network
Points of discussion		

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Apologies received from Simon Deakin, Sue Matthews, Monawara Bahkt and Elaine Ryan.

2. Notes of previous meeting – agreed

- 2.1 Correction – David was at the meeting.

- 2.2 Actions from previous meeting:

- It was clarified that Emma will email Elaine to ask for the details of which faith groups participated in the Safe Network focus groups and in which boroughs they were held.

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3. Discussion on child sexual abuse in BME Communities

- 3.1 The Group had a wide-ranging discussion about the prevalence and manifestation of child sexual abuse in all local communities. This included how individuals and communities raise the issue, the difficulties and dangers of raising it and the range of potential multi-agency responses. The group also considered the link between child sexual abuse and a victim being labelled as being 'spirit possessed'.
- 3.2 Mor and Justin said that their agencies had experience in responding to cases presenting these issues.

Action: Christine to contact Mor.

4. Update on each borough-based project

- 4.1 Bexley – three secondary schools are ready to pilot PHSE lesson plans with safeguarding as part of the curriculum. The BME mother's group is developing their own agenda for providing other parents with preventative, early intervention strategies and support where the parents have concerns re their children.

Action: Emma will send to Christine for circulation the lesson plans for the group.

- 4.2 Barnet – Karen provided a handout listing the Barnet project activities. November is always 'safeguarding' month in the borough. Karen's description of activity in Barnet included the Jewish community safeguarding children service, 'Faith Book' (listing 11 - 19 years faith-based activities, including supplementary schools and uniformed activities. The Supplementary Schools Forum provides training in areas such as supporting disabled children and 'classroom management'.
- 4.3 Brent – the project plan will go before the LSCB next week. The plan is for questionnaires to be disseminated in early January 2011 and for the consultation with communities to be completed by February. As part of the project a BME/faith conference is scheduled for March 2011. The focus is on closing the gap between the community and the voluntary sector and statutory services.

Action: Kellie-Ann will send to Christine for circulation her dissertation on '*Barriers to engagement between the voluntary and statutory sectors*'.

- 4.4 Enfield – the Enfield training for professionals is scheduled for February. The first trainees will include a number of police. Parental engagement is being facilitated by parents, with AFRUCA's support. Next plans will be progressed for engaging faith leaders.
- 4.5 Greenwich – Amanda has facilitated focus groups comprising professionals and community representatives. The themes which emerged as challenging were the 'hidden' nature of child sexual abuse and FGM. Communities would like to have information in their own language.
- 4.6 Hackney – the project is currently dealing with the ethics involved in having young people interviewing other young people and their families about their experiences. There will be five young people from the Hackney Youth Parliament and five from the community, with particular regard to having good representation from relevant communities/groups.

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- 4.7 Sutton – the project is supported by Sutton SCB in its Business Plan. The focus will be on the marginalised groups and the plan is to be very proactive in making contact and engaging with groups and communities who have not felt able to access statutory service support and/or make referrals into statutory services as needed.

5. Conferences

- 5.1 The Project plans to host two conferences:

- May 2011 – co-hosted with Trust for London. This conference will update on the progress of the London Project and also launch the Trust for London *Safeguarding Children's Rights Initiative Report* (see: <http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/special-initiatives/safeguarding-childrens-rights/> and the *Safe Network Report*).
- December 2011 – co-hosted with LB Bexley. This conference will launch the London Project's final *Report, Guidance, Strategy Toolkit and Training Toolkit*.

- 5.2 Christine asked colleagues to make enquiries about the use of a venue for the May conference which would seat 150 people, is fairly central and would not cost much, if anything, as we would like to offer all places free.

Action: David to send Christine the list of venues he has been collating for Internet Safety Week in February 2011.

6. Project Reports

- 6.1 The Project Report template was discussed. Interim project reports need to be submitted no later than 31st March 2011 in order for them to be assimilated into an Interim project Report for presentation at the Conference in May 2011.

Action: Project co-ordinators to plan submission of their reports by 31st March 2011.

7. Faith leaders seminar/s

- 7.1 The group discussed how best to engage London's faith leaders. Two options are:

- Making contact through the London Borough Faiths Network
- Developing a Toolkit which includes:
 - the Safe Network resource pack
 - CCPAS's dvd
 - the on-line survey link and guidance on how to use it
 - contact details of speakers who can be invited to address seminars
 - a suggested training programme
 - guidance on how to refer cases to LA children's social care

- 7.2 The Safe Network Quality Assurance Framework will shortly be re-launched. However, faith groups need additional 'standards' e.g. to manage issues such as spirit possession, membership of congregations of people who present a risk of harm to children etc

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8. Focus Groups & Online Survey

- 8.1 Emma has met with 14 LSCBs to date and is on schedule to have completed interviews with 25 LSCBs by the end of January 2011.
- 8.2 It remains a challenge to get LSCB Development Officers to complete the local audit forms and return them to Emma.

Action: Emma to attend the Development Officers' meeting on 1st February 2010 to promote completion of the forms.

- 8.3 Karen reported that the online survey has attracted 270 responses, of which approx. one third are from professionals and rest from the community. Greenwich has been remarkably responsive, Amanda explained that she has taken a very proactive approach to disseminating the survey link and encouraging people to complete it.

9. AOB – Links with other agencies & partnerships

- 9.1 The group welcomed approaches from other agencies and partnerships to contribute to the project. The group agreed to offer an 'open meeting' to any interested parties early in the new year. Also, any group or individual who wants to contribute to the project is welcome to do so – particularly when drafts of the project products are consulted on.

Action: Christine to arrange the 'open meeting'.

Action: Everyone to offer potential contributors the option of coming to the 'open meeting' or providing their email details for the consultation phase of the project.

10. Future meetings

- 10.1 All at London Councils, 10am – 12pm on:
- 10 January 2011
 - 14 February 2011
 - 14 March 2011
 - 11 April 2011