

Working with Faith Communities to Protect Children and Young People

Tuesday 27th February 2007, Central London

Conference chair:

Janet Snell, Deputy Editor, *Community Care*

Keynote address:

Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP,

Minister for Children, Young People and Families has been invited to speak

Speakers:

Detective Superintendent Caroline Bates, Metropolitan Child Abuse Investigation Command

Hannah Miller, Croydon Council, ADSS and London Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, Muslim Parliament of Great Britain

Pastor Bob Pull, Safe 2 Worship Partnership, CCPAS and Metropolitan Police

Perdeep Gill, Aditi Consultancy Services

Pearl Luxon, The Methodist Church of Great Britain and the Church of England

David Derbyshire, NCH – The Bridge

Rebecca Lythe, Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Leethen Bartholomew, Haringey Children and Young People Service

Paul Hodgkinson, Kirklees Children and Young People Service

David Pearson, The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)

Detective Inspector Martin Arnold, Metropolitan Child Abuse Investigation Command

Imam Haroon Patel, Islamic Spiritual Leader

Harmander Singh, Prominent UK Sikh Activist

Romain Matando, UK Congolese Association

Debbie Ariyo, AFRUCA (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse)

Deirdre Fitzpatrick and Eileen Finnegan, One in Four

Yvonne Criddle, Church of England Education Division

Jacquie Price, The Truro Diocese

Topics include:

- The role of the police in safeguarding children in faith communities
- The social worker's role in child protection within faith communities
- Engaging and working with closed communities
- Lessons learnt from the London Community Partnership project
- Working with the Jewish community
- The Madressah Project – engaging communities to develop child protection policies and procedures
- Sex offending and the Christian church – challenges for professionals
- Working with African and Asian communities: Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu perspectives of agencies
- Effective local action: the police, social workers and faith communities
- Working with and safeguarding black African children
- Surviving abuse – issues for the abused child
- Working with young people in faith communities to safeguard young people

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Working with Faith Communities to Protect Children

Why attend this conference?

Community Care, the London Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), the Metropolitan Police and ADSS are proud to present this major one-day conference. It will provide an important platform to discuss how social care professionals, police officers and religious organisations can engage faith communities on child protection issues and successfully work with them to safeguard children and young people.

This event will incorporate findings from several key reports including *Child Protection in Faith-Based Environments* and *The extent and analysis of child abuse relating to accusations of 'possession' and 'witchcraft'*.

This conference will give delegates a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of the issues around child protection and faith communities; the differing cultures of faith communities; how care professionals have overcome the challenges and are successfully working with faith communities to protect children and young people; and how social care professionals, the police and religious organisations can work together more effectively to safeguard children and young people in faith communities.

Who should attend this conference?

- Child Protection Social Workers
- Child Protection Police Officers
- Children and Families Social Workers
- Fostering and Adoption Social Workers
- Social Work Team Managers
- Voluntary sector children and families professionals
- Interested religious organisations
- Policy makers
- Youth Workers
- Health Visitors

9.30	Chair's introduction and opening remarks <i>Janet Snell</i> , Deputy Editor, <i>Community Care</i>
9.45	The role of the police in safeguarding children in faith communities <i>Detective Superintendent Caroline Bates</i> , Metropolitan Child Abuse Investigation Command <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Violet• Multi-agency working in child protection and faith communities• Influences from the media
10.20	The social worker's role in child protection within faith communities <i>Hannah Miller</i> , Croydon Council; ADSS Lead on Protecting Children from Religious/Cultural Based Abuse; and Member, London Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of London Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)• Multi-agency working• Are social workers receiving adequate training in faith issues?
10.55	Coffee
11.15	Child protection in faith-based environments <i>Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui</i> , Leader, Muslim Parliament of Great Britain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The findings of the report <i>Child Protection in Faith-Based Environments</i>• The recommendations of the report• Implementing child protection policies in Madressahs• Local authorities, LSCBs and faith based-organisations working together
11.50	The extent and analysis of child abuse relating to accusations of 'possession' and 'witchcraft' <i>Pastor Bob Pull</i> , Founder, Safe 2 Worship Partnership; Communities Consultant, The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and Metropolitan Police <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key findings of the report• Issues for practice for statutory and voluntary organisations• The recommendations of the report
12.25	Engaging and working with closed communities <i>Perdeep Gill</i> , Child Protection Specialist, Aditi Consultancy Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulties in engaging closed communities• Community Partnership Projects• Definitions of abuse that may take place in faith communities
1.00	Lunch
	WORKSHOPS
2.00	A. Working with a broken community - challenges of being a welcoming place after the occurrence of abuse within the Church <i>Pearl Luxon</i> , Safeguarding Adviser (Child and Adult Protection), The Methodist Church of Great Britain and the Church of England <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The needs of sex offenders in the church, the needs of survivors• How is the church to respond?• Why people take sides and how we achieve a balance• How can a church cope in these situations?
	OR
	B. Working with the Jewish community <i>Speakers from Norwood – Children and Families First</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising awareness of religious beliefs and culture within the Jewish community• Investigations and assessments within the Jewish community in safeguarding children• Multi-agency working

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OR

C. Lessons learnt from the London Community Partnership project

David Derbyshire, Service Development Director, NCH – The Bridge, **Rebecca Lythe**, Community Partnership Adviser, Islington Safeguarding Children Board and **Leethen Bartholomew**, Community Partnership Adviser, Haringey Children and Young People Service

- What is the London Community Partnership project?
- Are the pilots having a positive impact on child protection in faith communities?
- Building a toolkit to communicate effectively with communities
- Emerging findings from the file audit

OR

D. The Madressah Project – engaging communities to develop child protection policies and procedures

Paul Hodgkinson, Principal Officer, Child Protection and Review Unit, Kirklees Children and Young People Service

- Experiences in working with Islamic supplementary schools to promote safeguarding of children and young people
- The need for professionals to better understand religion/belief and culture
- Implications of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) for child protection in this sector

Coffee

E. Sex offending and the Christian church – challenges for professionals

David Pearson, Executive Director, The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)

- The scale of the problem
- Churches and agencies working together
- What needs to change?

OR

F. Effective local action: the police, social workers and faith communities working together

Detective Inspector Martin Arnold, Community and Partnership, Metropolitan Child Abuse Investigation Command

- Working together to safeguard children
- Forging closer links between agencies
- The challenges of information sharing

OR

G. Working with African and Asian communities: Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu perspectives of agencies

Imam Haroon Patel, Islamic Spiritual Leader, **Harmander Singh**, Prominent UK Sikh Activist, and **Romain Matando**, Founder, UK Congolese Association

- How do faith communities view agencies?
- Building effective relationships between communities and agencies
- What needs to change?

H. Working with and safeguarding black African children

Debbie Ariyo, Executive Director, AFRUCA (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse)

- Understanding religion, belief and culture
- The impact of 'possession' and 'witchcraft' on a child's mental health
- Identifying cases of abuse in black African children
- Engaging black African communities in child protection – working together

OR

I. Surviving abuse – issues for the abused child

Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Advocacy Director and **Eileen Finnegan**, Deputy Clinical Director, One in Four

- The consequences of abuse on a child
- Recognising the damage
- Rebuilding trust, restoring faith
- Ensuring the best possible future for the abused child

OR

J. Working with young people in faith communities to safeguard young people

Yvonne Criddle, National Youth Adviser, Church of England Education Division and **Jacquie Price**, Diocese Youth Officer, The Truro Diocese

- Engaging with young people in faith communities
- Ensuring that young people understand the issues

4.30

Chair's summing up

4.40

Close of conference

Keynote address: Working with faith communities to protect children and young people

Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister for Children, Young People and Families has been invited to speak

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Post-Registration Training and Learning at Community Care Conferences

Attending this conference is an excellent opportunity for you to collect post-registration training and learning hours as required by the GSCC. You can make the time you spend at this conference count by recording what you learn from the sessions you attend. The delegate documentation pack you will receive at the event will include a PRTL – Record of Achievement form to help you with this. Simply attend the conference, record your learning on the form provided, and keep it with your GSCC form along with your record of post-registration training and learning for reference when you re-register.

“Recording what you have gained from learning opportunities at conferences is important for social workers to meet the training and learning requirements of registration.”

Lynne Berry

Chief Executive, General Social Care Council

2.45

3.00

3.45

