

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

**MINUTES FROM THE REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER
PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (RAPAR) MEETING HELD ON 23
APRIL 2002 AT CATHEDRAL HOUSE, CHAPEL STREET, SALFORD**

Present:

Fazil Jamal (asylum seeker), Ali Namegoshayefard (Iranian asylum seeker), Nilofer Shaikh (Community Health Coordinator, PCT), Mark McDonald (Salford CVS), Cath Maffia (Salford PCT), Louise Kay (Salford I.A.G.), Zakyeya Atcha (Salford PCT), Suzanne Hindle (New Deal for Communities), Geoff Kirkman (Greater Manchester Police Authority), Linda Corfield (Salford ETMAS),

Chair: Dr Rhetta Moran (Revens Institute, University of Salford)

Minutes: Dr Maeve Keaney (University of Manchester, Dept of Postgraduate Medicine)

Apologies:

Mr Latif Ebadi (Iranian refugee)

1. Welcome and introduction to new people

2. Minutes of previous meeting, 26.03.02

Confirmed as inaccurate apart from speaking;
CORFIELD rather than CAULFIED
WEINSTEIN rather than WEINBERG

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Police Liaison With Refugee Action – re. Rights Card

With Home Office have stop and search card.

No action from GMP

Action: Will liase with Phil Davies to see if Police action has been ? and chase it up

3.2 Funding

SRB5. Final stage of Final bid.

4 posts live in Salford and ?

3 community development posts dedicated to different communities over 3 years

Steerage of work – supported by sub group of RAPAR ? management is from PCT

Interviews are next week.

3.3 **The Childrens Fund**

The money is for bilingual assistance to ETMAS. Alternative money for 3 months full time for Cath Maffia's post from PCT – slippage money.

Refugee Support Network – Manchester based have settled monies for Refugee / Asylum seekers children and have asked Rhetta to work with them.
? bid for future money for Asylum seeking children.

Action: Liase with ETMAS in Salford over development of this bid to the DIANA fund.

3.4 **Scarman Trust**

Now on list for this Trust

3.5 **RAPAR – Financial Status**

Money – handed over and logged

Need to find someone to manage our accounts on a voluntary capacity.

Discussion took place as to whether we needed to pay someone.

Action: Maeve Keaney to ask a retired bank manager

Community Fund – interested?

Approaches ??

4. **Education**

4.1 Ongoing negotiations about locations are happening

Now one person short as Abdullah Ramatullah was planned to lead a group. This place is being kept open and the money will be made available on his return.

Louise mentioned that NRP – new regeneration partnership – has funding available for interpreters.

Drop-in language classes – 2-5pm on Friday

Starting in 2 weeks time located at Salford Playhouse.

4.2 **MANCAT**

Education for 14/15 year olds who are finding it difficult to get into schools where there are no secondary school places available.

No more ? available – Donna to provide an update

4.3 **Mental Health Conference & Refugees providing Refugee Training for services professionals and other initiatives.**

Update at next meeting from Phil Davies.

RAPAR would be interested – group offering opportunities to non mental health and other professionals in the Salford area.

4.4 **Charitable Status - Work Group**

4.5 **Accommodation**

Cath Maffia reported some families are getting ELR and turned out / evicted right away. Officially time has increased from 14 days to 28 days to allow time to find accommodation once ELR granted. It was highlighted that

- 4.6 Portico Housing are asking for proof of indefinite leave to remain, and housing authorities also insisting need for indefinite leave to remain.
? send letter to Portico about correct pages from Manual to explain most don't have indefinite leave to remain.

Action: Cath will discuss with Donna.

Some families are only being offered bed and breakfast. The fact that there are lots of empty properties in Salford was discussed. The need for the introduction of an accredited landlord scheme was mentioned. Rhetta asked could we lobby anyone? Cath Maffia will write to Jean Rollinson of Supporting People on behalf of RAPAR.

It was mentioned that the ? Asylum Seeker Group by the Housing Department of the Council.

4.6 **Resurrecting Asylum Seeker Steering Group - Council**

Cath Maffia mentioned she had been invited to an inaugural meeting for the relaunch of this group on May 2nd 2002. It was thought that only the previous members had been invited.

It was noted that RAPAR had not been invited.

? not invited because not an official body.

Cath Maffia will speak to Janice Sammuels and suggest RAPAR is involved.

? need to send a letter to others if don't get a response. It was suggested that Hermione should be asked and **Fazil?** asked to go

5. **Health Subgroup**

- 5.1 **Sports Subgroup** – need a quick fix to keep people's interests. ? arrange a few football matches. A report has been written by Alan on barriers to sports events for Asylum Seeker. It was suggested that Gary ? should be approached by Rhetta. – he is a manager in the leisure side of the education directorate.

5.2 **Health Salford Fair**

RAPAR have booked 29th May. Need volunteers, staff, resources and information stall. A poster was circulated. It was suggested that members bring information to the next RAPAR meeting on 21st May 2002.

Need to provide information – suitable for Asylum Seekers / Refugees.

Members booked for 29th so volunteers needed to help take the materials. It was suggested that a leaflet needed preparing a listing of all the agencies in Salford which help refugees.

Action: Any resources should be brought to Nilofer's office at Higher Broughton Health Centre between 9.30am and 1pm on any day. 21st May – meeting to organise stall.

5.2 **Manchester Muslim Work**

No further information.

5.3 **Kordish Party**

Fazil reported that the Asylum Seeker / Refugee community had organised a party on Monday 29th April between 1pm and 6pm at Bnface Church Social Hall, 252 Lower Broughton Road, Salford 7. A poster was tabled describing the event. Volunteers are needed to help. Cooking utensils – large pans and chairs are needed. Practitioners in Salford should drop in during the afternoon. The two MPs have been invited.

5.4 **Geoff Kirkman reported that the Community Services Department are appointing an ethnic minority co-ordinator to look at access to council services within the safety scheme. More interviewed for a Race Hate Crime Project Worker. This person will collect information and look at a response. Salford multi agency harassment forum is bidding for lottery money to help reporting of harassment by ethnic minorities.**

Discussion took place on how best RAPAR linked into this scheme. Rhetta asked why are refugees themselves not involved? Geoff said is a meeting was organised by RAPAR he would invite the relevant Senior Police to come. Rhetta explained she thought refugees should be invited directly through RAPAR to be involved. Geoff agreed to take this forward.

Action: Geoff will talk to Cath and Linda to arrange to invite different communities to Police Affairs and Community Safety ? to discuss policing the communities and issues for them re. Race Hate Crime.

5.5 **Public Health**

Public Health Department at Salford PCT want to link in with RAPAR's work. They wish to scope the work being done. They want views of Asylum Seekers and Refugees for the Public Health Report. Will liase with Fazil and Cath. Permit us to address the health needs of this vulnerable population.

Rhetta said the health of Asylum Seekers and Refugees was being undermined by the actions of the Home Office currently lifting Asylum Seekers from Housing Offices and being deported. Could advocacy roles, listing health as an issue help?

5.6 **Abdullah Ramatullah**

Rhetta reported that the latest information was Hazel Blears has put in writing to the Home Office that Salford is opposed to the action taken by the Home Office. Pressure is continuing to grow. Discussions took place about Abdullah's case and the impact of government policy on Asylum Seekers on their health, education and social welfare.

It was felt that RAPAR needed to learn from what had happened to Abdullah and to develop a strategy to cope with future ? situations. It was suggested that an article could be written to a national newspaper. ? could Abdullah's letter. Dr Keaney agreed to send to ??: Browns – a copy of Abdullah's letter.

Any Other Business:

6. **Thursday 29th April in London. The Asylum Seekers pack is being issued.**

There is an official launch. To ?

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

4 pm Tuesday 21st May 2002