

Notes from RAPAR Meeting held at 10.00 on 30.10.01 at Cathedral House, Salford Diocese.

Present:

Phil Davies  
Peter Fell  
Hermione Lovel  
Cath Maffia  
Joanne Miller  
Rhetta Moran (Chair)  
Mark McDonnell  
Zeinab Mohamed  
Raiza Mohamed  
Nilofer Shaikh  
Maria Thornton (Minute taker)

Apologies:

Paul Evans  
Bill Davies  
Bill Gulam  
Dawn Peters

Yesterday's Announcement: A New Approach to Immigration and Asylum

Please refer to Executive summary attached.

The long-term aim is to end the current dispersal system. Three orientation centres will be introduced to replace the current emergency accommodation system. The centres will provide interpretation services and individual health checks, however the time scale is presently unclear and it is vital people continue to receive the information and support they require from existing services.

By the end of 2002 four pilot housing centres will be established each accommodating 3,000 people on a full board basis with a small cash allowance. This mechanism will replace the voucher system for these asylum seekers, however the scheme will continue for those not in accommodation, although there will be an increase in the cash allowance of £4.00 and a reduction of £4.00 in vouchers in an attempt to increase flexibility. These are not being called detention centres, but they are to be located in unpopulated areas and away from transport systems. Reporting centres will be established and it is envisaged these may be incorporated within the housing centres.

It is not clear whether this is a long or short-term measure. At present it is unclear how these proposals will affect those people already dispersed and in the interim the current dispersal system will continue, although there will be an attempt to cluster people by language. The mechanism for deciding who enters the pilot scheme is also uncertain. It is anticipated there will be an increase in detention for those people turned down for asylum.

The above scheme is a pilot project which is due to commence at the end of 2002 and accounts for only 12,000 asylum seekers which is a small proportion of the 60,000 people seeking asylum last year. It is important in the meantime to reinforce the need for the continued funding and provision of all current community support services for asylum seekers.

Refugees from war torn countries will not be subject to the above and will be based on medical need, as was the case with Kosovan refugees. It is anticipated these people with return to their country of origin unless they submit a separate asylum application.

## 2. Re-visiting the intended actions from the first meeting: Chief Executive/Officer Support

Refugee Action's Chief Executive in London has pledged his support for the RAPAR group as has the Executive of Salford CVS. The group confirmed the decision to obtain the commitment from the Chief Executive/Officer of Manchester, Salford and Trafford PCT's, Salford Mental Health Services, Salford CVS, Revive, Manchester, Salford and Trafford City Councils, Salford Mental Health Services and Trafford in supporting RAPAR's aims and objectives.

### Action

Maria Thornton will progress Salford PCT (and covering Salford Council)

Joanne Green will progress Central Manchester PCT and the Strategic Health Authority

Rhetta Moran will progress Salford Mental Health Trust

Hermione Lovel will progress the Trafford organisations

## 3. Making bids, managing money, Conisiting

RAPAR has been pledged seedcorn monies of £500 from Salford Community Health Project and £500 from Salford Mental Health Services.

The ESRC bid was unsuccessful, however the group was interested in submitting an application to the National Lotteries Community Fund. To apply for this grant the group needs a formal constitution.

Working from the basis that, for the moment the people effectively taking on these roles should continue:

Rhetta Moran was nominated for Chair by Hermione and seconded by Nilofer

Maria Thronton was nominated for Secretary by Cath and seconded by Phil Mark McDonald was nominated for Treasurer by Rhetta and seconded by Phil (subject to authorisation by his employer). If anyone else is interested in the posts please contact Rhetta.

A discussion took place to decide if the group wanted to become a charity but it was felt this was a lengthy process, and an alternative was discussed, that of forming a consortium of organisations. However both these approaches would require additional meetings and would increase the administration. The third approach was to form an association but as group members would be personally liable this was not thought appropriate. The fourth approach was to identify an existing organisation that could take the lead and the other organisations would then comprise a reference group. It was decided that this was the most feasible idea and the CVS would take the lead and manage the project jointly. Mark McDonnell will investigate this possibility as a joint venture between RAPAR and the CVS. The CVS has a track record of attracting funding and can submit audited accounts that will strengthen any bids.

## 4. Other Refugee Initiatives in Greater Manchester and ERSC Wellbeing Group

Rhetta to attend the Manchester Refugee Health Subgroup

Phil already attends the Supporting Communities group.

Rhetta will explore the possibilities of having a representative on the housing and education/training groups.

A group in London was successful in receiving ERSC funding for a series of seminars on wellbeing. There is a seminar on health in Glasgow and Rhetta will get details.

Rhetta and Bogusia Temple have been working on an ERSC submission for this series and the deadline is mid November.

## 5. Needs Analysis

It was suggested the group should focus on a needs-analysis and the interventions required. Several potential sources of funding were identified. If work is developed with the refugee community this allows access to smaller sources of funding.

### Action

Phil Davies to provide details of funding via the TSB

Alan Lane and Mark McDonnell will ask CVS's fund finder to look for appropriate funding opportunities.

## 6. Report back from ice breaker meeting with young Afghani men in Salford

The feedback from the first meeting on 29th October was very positive. It was well attended. This was the first time the Afghan men had come together since the events of 11<sup>th</sup> September and the convivial atmosphere of the meeting helped them to feel relaxed and secure. The men from the Broughton area are keen to meet up with those from the Precinct.

A meeting has been arranged for Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 3.00pm at St James RC Church Hall Pendleton, the Salford Precinct. Zeinab will ask the Somali women if they are willing to provide the food, and interpretation services will be provided. The Afghan men want to go away and discuss what they want from the RAPAR group and then get back in touch with us.

If the men are willing, Nilofer is able to offer support to them as a community group and can help with providing a venue to meet and computer and telephone access.

Rhetta has compiled a contact list and will write up a short account of the event to distribute to all the men who attended. For those who are unable to read English, Raizer agreed to write some words of welcome.

## 7. AOB

There is an exhibition coming to Manchester for one week from 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November and there is a special session for social workers and health professionals. If anyone is interested please contact Phil Davies for details.

## 8. Date, Time and Venue of Future RAPAR Meetings

**Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November from 10 -12**

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December from 10 – 12**

**Both at  
Cathedral House,  
Salford Diocese  
Chapel Street,  
Salford.**