



HUDDERSFIELD PAKISTANI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT

2002 - 2003

HPCA REPORT 2002 - 2003

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HPCA - Projects

Home Study Learning (For children between 8 - 11 yrs)

Pakistani Youth Forum (For youth between 14 - 25 yrs)

Neighbourhood Learning Centre (For 18 + yrs)

ICT Learning Centre (For all ages)

Pakistani Women's Forum (For all ages)

Asian Healthy Community Network (For the elderly)

Inspire Leadership Programme (For 16 + yrs)

FOREWORD - DR HASNIE

I am pleased once again to foreword the Annual Report of Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance for the year 2002/03 for your Consideration and approval.

We continue to live in a multi-cultural, multi-faith, multi-national and multi-lingual society and believe that there is a need for all of us to be more actively engaged in constructive participation for the benefit of all within society. Current research still indicates that people of Pakistani heritage in comparison with other groups in Britain, continue to have higher levels of unemployment, suffer more poverty, live in areas with poor amenities, suffer more from ill health and their youngsters as a group are under-achieving in education. We need to find 'positive ways' of engaging Pakistani young people with a view to making them self-sufficient in today's British society'. In order to remedy this situation, we feel that we must provide positive role models for our young people, so that they can feel that it is possible to succeed in British society.

It is now just the right time for individuals from our community who have been at the cutting edge of making a difference in their professions and businesses in Britain to come forward and make a positive impact to improve the social, economic and political conditions for the younger generation in our society. Young people of Pakistani heritage born here are now making a significant contribution in all spheres of British life such as law, medicine, commerce, business, education, and politics to name a few areas of activity. They have demonstrated their abilities, passion, persistence and succeeded against a backdrop of social disadvantage in addition to the prevalent mindless discrimination against them, through their efforts with the support of their family and friends from all sections of the their community and the indigenous majority community.

Please come forward and participate, share your knowledge and experience, give insights and skills to the younger generation. We continue to encourage better understanding between all segments of our community and to campaign for equal opportunities for all citizens of Huddersfield and will play its role in initiatives designed to improve the social, educational and economic position of disadvantaged in our community.

Some examples of active engagement by our members over the last year been in the following spheres

- Faith in communities
- Developing groups within the community
- Tackling Youth Poverty
- Education and Training
- Preparing for Employment
- Networking

HPCA Team is to be congratulated for their achievements over the last year. HPCA is now a well-established organization and has done much to influence service providers to deliver ethnically sensitive quality services through joined up working. This has also resulted in more educational and training opportunities for members of the community to gain more confidence and useful employable skills. The financial

and personal support from Huddersfield Pride, Kirk lees Metropolitan Council, Voluntary Action Kirk lees and many individuals and organizations is gratefully acknowledged. Huddersfield Pakistan Community Alliance has been able to achieve a fair bit with limited resources. Credit for this is due to the Officers and Members of the Management Committee, numerous volunteers and to Ishtiaq Ahmed - Pakistani Community Partnership Officer at Voluntary Action Kirklees for his efforts for providing guidance and a steer.

I would like to wish you another successful and prosperous year. Please remain hopeful, keep motivated and committed given that there is no doubt that we will achieve. May Allah give us the strength to do the required!

Yours sincerely

Dr Nasimulhaq Shahzad Hasnie O.B.E
Honorary President

Chairperson

Shahida Awan - LLB (Hon's) LLM

It is with much pleasure that I present to you this third Annual Report of the Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance. Over the last three years, the organization has taken great strides in advocating and representing interests of the Pakistani community. We have done this in partnership with other major community and public agencies in the area. We firmly believe that whereas the Pakistani community sector needs to be assertive and rigorous in its advocacy role, it also needs to be inclusive in its approach, fully recognizing the value of working and progressing together. We have firmly incorporated these values in all aspects of our work.

Occasionally, I have been surprised and wonderfully encouraged by the level of support for our work from all sections of the community, particularly from the young people and women. Over 250 women attended the Pakistani Women conference and we have also consulted and involved over three hundred young people in our activities. The high level of enthusiasm, motivation and ability amongst the young Pakistanis is impressive.

The following pages of the report will outline the work of the Pakistani Community Alliance. Hopefully, you too will be impressed and encouraged by the development to get involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my sincere thanks to all members of the management committee of Pakistani Community Alliance: Nusrat Rashid, Rukhsana Muhmood, Haji Muhammad Hanif Asad, Shagufta Kauser, Aleem Ahmed, Zahid Iqbal, Iftikhar Aziz, Asif Khan, and Victor Gill.

Finally, all the work of the PCA would not have been possible without the vision and resilience of Ishtiaq Ahmed (Pakistani Community Partnership Officer @ Voluntary Action Kirklees), Mumtaz Ali (ICT manager) and Rashad Bokhari (NLC Co-ordinator) and Liaqat Hussain (Development Worker, Pakistani Youth Forum) and many many other dedicated volunteers.

Shahida Awan (LLB (Hon's) LLM
Chairperson

General Secretary's Report

By Nusrat Rashid

I am very pleased with the progress of the Alliance over the last year. On my part, I have attempted to support and service the work of the Management Committee. I have been particularly impressed by the involvement and dedication of committee members and their willingness to pull together through thick and thin. Benefits of this approach are already too obvious.

I am also impressed by a number of young Pakistanis that have come forward to join the Alliance and/or take part in our work and activities. The idea of Pakistani Youth Forum comes from the young people themselves and already there is a much enthusiasm for developing and taking this idea forward.

The Alliance has successfully arranged many celebrations. Events were held at Huddersfield Town Hall and were well attended by all section of the community, particularly women and children.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the PCA management committee and staff for their support and encouragement.

Nusrat Rashid
(General Secretary)

Treasurers Note

By Aleem Ahmed (BA (Hons.) (ACCA)

The accounts for the year have been prepared and will be circulated to all members of the PCA at the AGM for approval.

This has been a successful year for the PCA in that we have been able to draw in a substantial amount of funding for a number of key projects. I am grateful for all the help I have received from the members of the management committee and in particular Hajj Mohammed Hanif Asad, from whom I took over the responsibility.

Aleem Ahmed - BA (Hons.) ACCA
(Treasurer)

Teresa Butler
Executive Director - Huddersfield Pride

Shahida Awan
Chair, Pakistani Community Alliance
Huddersfield

02 June 2003

Dear Shahida,

Re: Pakistani Community Alliance Annual General Meeting, 9 June 2003

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you and your colleagues on the success of the Pakistani Community Alliance and I am looking forward to your annual general meeting. As you know, my predecessor, Jane Stuart, was closely involved in the formation of the PCA and support from Huddersfield Pride has continued through the work of Ishtiaq Ahmed. Involving communities is an integral part of the SRB5 programme, "Huddersfield - A Platform for Change". I believe the work of the PCA has involved a wider cross section of the Pakistani communities in Huddersfield and, over the last three years, has brought many people together for the first time to work towards common goals.

I am sure we will continue to work in partnership to help smaller groups take responsibility for their development and Contribute to real community regeneration.

Yours sincerely,

Teresa Butler
Executive Director - Huddersfield Pride

Councillor John Smithson
Liberal Democrat Councillor for
ALMONDBURY WARD
Deputy Leader's Room
Crown Court Buildings
Princess Street
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire HD1 2TT

30 May 2003

Pakistani Community Alliance

Dear Shahida

I am happy to offer the following message of support to the PCA:

Please accept my very best wishes to the Pakistani Community Alliance for the forthcoming year.

The Council is always keen to show its support for the many varied and diverse communities within Kirklees and the Pakistani community is generally recognised as having one of the richest histories which contributes a lively and vibrant energy to modern life here in West Yorkshire. Furthermore the work of the PCA makes an enormous contribution to the quality of life of the local community.

I wish the PCA, its Members, Supporters and well wishers a healthy, prosperous and peaceful year ahead and for many years to come.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR JOHN SMITHSON
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Mehboob Khan
LEADER OF KIRKLEES LABOUR GROUP
& LABOUR COUNCILLOR FOR
BIRKBY WARD

Date: Friday, 06 June 2003

Ishtiaq Ahmed
Pakistani Community Alliance
C/O KCVS
Huddersfield

Dear Ishtiaq,

Congratulations on another busy and eventful year for the Pakistani Community Alliance. During this year the organisation has spearheaded many important projects to improve the quality of life for local residents and worked with various agencies to strengthen links between the Pakistani community and other communities in Huddersfield.

Pakistani youth and women have been fortunate to have their own forums to raise, discuss and move forward to issues relevant to these groups. I have met with numerous young people and women who praise both you and Liaquat in supporting and assisting these groups to develop. Last year's Mela, celebration of Eid and Independence Day were extremely successful events and the whole community had an opportunity to be educated as well as being entertained in both traditional and modern methods.

There is still a great deal of work to be done, PCA has strong foundations to build upon current activity.

Personally it has been rewarding to work with you and Liaquat in meeting the needs of Huddersfield residents and I look forward to an equally challenging but progressive year.

Yours Sincerely,

Mehboob Khan
Councillor Mehboob Khan

PAKISTANI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE AND VOLUNTARY ACTION KIRKLEES

Once again I am pleased to be given the opportunity to express my and VAK's support for the PCA. Year on year it has undoubtedly developed into a significant voice and provider of services for the communities it serves.

Other people are better placed to describe the specific activities which benefit and involve local people. I have to mention, though, the new and exciting 'community leadership' initiative. VAK and other agencies have long recognised the need for this kind of work. It is only with the emergence of PCA that a "home" for this project is possible, because the active involvement of its membership provides the base from which future community leaders can be identified. It is to the great credit of all involved that the leadership project is a partnership between PCA and the African Caribbean Trust.

The issue of leadership is very topical at the moment. VAK has agreed to act as voluntary sector lead agency in the new Kirklees Community Cohesion Pathfinder Programme. We only have the confidence to take on this role because we have such a strong relationship with and support from PCA and similar organisations. Never has there been a more important time for this to happen in response to increased tensions around local party and community politics fuelled by world and national events.

I hope the above points show that what was once a one-way support relationship is now definitely two-way. VAK, and other agencies, rely on the involvement of PCA and its members to enable our projects to meet their objectives. We look forward optimistically to many years of constructive joint work.

I pass on my congratulations and thanks to Shahida Awan, the PCA Committee and membership.

Neil Bennett
Director, Voluntary Action Kirklees

Overview of Key PCA Projects

Neighbourhood Learning Centre

The NLC is proving to be a major player in the field of neighborhood learning through its pioneering and innovative approach to community learning. Its work is being recognized both locally and nationally. Recently, the Centre has received a major grant from the Community Fund to sustain and expand its work. The NLC started as a PCA project but now is independently constituted, with a management committee from the local community.

ICT Learning Centre

A partnership project with KCOL is one of the clusters of such centres throughout the Kirklees. Learners for whom learning through IT was not a possibility are now extensively using the facilities. It is heartening to see elder men and women, who had given up any hope of learning, using ICT facilities along with their children and grandchildren.

Home Study Learning

The PCA is also working closely with the Children's Fund Kirklees to start a three-year programme of home study support for schoolchildren and their parents who for variety of reasons are not achieving their full potential in education. The project will work closely with schools and parents through out Huddersfield.

Leadership Programme

With an eye on the future, PCA in partnership with the African Caribbean Trust has put together a leadership programme. This is a strategic initiative aimed at developing community leaders/advocates with skills and confidence to work across communities, cultures and social divide. This is a unique project by a unique partnership.

Pakistani Youth Forum

The PCA is working closely with Young Peoples Services to address the needs of the Pakistani Young People and has keenly supported the development of Pakistani Youth Forum. PYF will act as a bridge between service providers and the local Pakistani youth, to share information about needs in order to develop appropriate service provision.

Chaanun Youth Theatre

The Chaanun Youth Theatre once a part of the PCA has now become an independent set-up. Chaanun's cultural activities are not only proving popular in Huddersfield but are attracting fame in other parts of the region. Chaanun's work is across communities, racial, cultural and social divide and major contribution to the community cohesion agenda.

Pakistani Women Forum

The PCA fully recognizes the importance of developing the Pakistani Women Forum. A recent conference held by PCA for Pakistani women in Huddersfield wholeheartedly supported the initiative. Seeing this as a major priority, a number of initiatives are in progress.

Asian Healthy Community Network

The PCA recognizes that along with all other services, we need to also focus and provide the needs of our elderly community members. The Asian Healthy Community Network is working very closely with South Asian Healthy Living project. The main work of the AHCN is to emphasize the need of healthy eating and healthy living, through raising awareness of gardening and growing organic food.

NLC & ICT (sessions)	280
ICT Drop-in Users	3,600
ICT Registered Users	200
General Advice	700
Carriers Advice	100
Local community group projects established	5
Community Festival Thornton lodge	2000

The NLC / ICT center has reached out and touched the lives of approximately 7000 people. This only is a rough guide of beneficiaries, and the number of people actually benefiting are much larger in number. It is amazing how a small project with limited resources but working innovatively can make a difference to the live's of so many.

From exclusion to inclusion:

by Ishtiaq Ahmed

A case study of development work with the Pakistani Community in Huddersfield. By Ishtiaq Ahmed, the Community Partnership Officer with Voluntary Action Kirklees.

A major research by the Huddersfield University identified the Pakistani community as being the most deprived, least involved, lacking in support and essential services. The 'community sector' base was judged to be too narrow thus restricting the scope for volunteering, emergence of fresh ideas and, more seriously, new personalities. A handful of the existing community organisations were just about keeping a number of important projects ticking but these were not sufficient to cater for the expanding demands of a growing community. The very style of these structures alienated and kept away the most creative minds of the community. The research report suggested a fresh approach to developing a viable community sector infrastructure for the Pakistani community, capable of moving with the time, imbued with skills and confidence to take forward the aspirations and needs of the community into the new millennium.

A steering group was established to develop proposals for taking forward the recommendations of the research report. The steering group consisted of representatives from the Voluntary Action Kirklees, Kirklees Racial Equality Council, Huddersfield Pride Ltd, Kirklees Council and members of the Pakistani community (both from the existing organisations and new faces). After much deliberation, the steering group concurred on the idea of developing the Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance, an umbrella set-up to spearhead developments in the Pakistani community, within the framework of the research findings. The Voluntary Action Kirklees was given the task of supporting this initiative.

The Voluntary Action Kirklees saw the development of the Pakistani Community Alliance as a major challenge and a unique opportunity to revive and strengthen its links with the Pakistani community. However, if this was to happen, it was acknowledged at the outset that the VAK would need to identify and set aside significant resources for this purpose. Also, if the initiative was to fulfil its potentials, it had to be nurtured in the full knowledge of community's unique cultural, social and political experiences and a unique 'mind set'. Furthermore, it was also noted that the person(s) spearheading this project would need a great deal of organisational trust and support.

With the financial support from the Huddersfield Pride, VAK was able to appoint a fulltime development worker to support the development of the Pakistani Community Alliance. It was considered important for the potential worker to have a proven track record in the field and someone who fully understood the sensitivity surrounding the project. The job at hand required a balancing act of alleviating fears of the existing 'community power bases' against the need to create space and opportunities for new and fresh developments.

The last two and half years have proved to be very instructive and constructive not only for the VAK as a lead agency on the project but also for the Pakistani community. Over the period we have seen mushrooming of fresh ideas, new ways of

doing things, emergence of new leadership, increase in volunteerism, growth in resources for the community managed projects, high profile for the community's cultural activities and widening of the partnership work. We detect an air of growing confidence and resurgence of optimism, if not in all certainly in key areas.

The success of the PCA has given impetus to other related but independent community activities. The Pakistani community is more visible in key networks and partnerships. Two of the VAK's current directors are of Pakistani origin, playing their role in the wider context. The fact both happen to be the leading members of the PCA is not a coincidence. VAK's proactive stance has led to a greater take up of the organization's services and facilities. The Work with Pakistani community is beginning to permeate throughout the organization and it is becoming less and less ghettoized.

With an eye on the future, PCA is currently working on a number of leadership programmes in order to nurture fresh, confident, skilful and responsible community leadership for the future, capable of operating with dignity and flare, in an inclusive manner. Towards this goal, PCA highly values its partnership work with the African Caribbean Trust and Pakistani Youth Forum.

In just over two years, we have discovered with regard to the Pakistani community, that within this seemingly insecure and inward community there is an abundance of energy and talent and all that is required is creative ways of setting it free.

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS:

By Ishtiaq Ahmed

The Pakistani community Alliance proudly presented the Eid and Pakistani day celebrations. In keeping with the tradition, Independence Day Celebrations were the biggest in UK, featuring Atta ullah Khan Isa Khelvi. The Town Hall was fully packed and we had to refuse entry to hundreds of disappointed fans, from Huddersfield and the surrounding areas. Due to the popularity of the event, people as far as Sheffield and Manchester attended. ARY digital was also present to record the event and it was later shown through out the world in almost seventy-two countries, bringing applause and recognition for Kirklees.

The Eid celebrations were also a huge success. The artistic programme of local and guest artists from Pakistan proved to be very popular with the family audience. Also present were guests from other communities and local council dignitaries.

The PCA actively supported the programmes of the South Asian Arts Forum. At the Kirklees Mela 2002, we shared a cultural marquee with the Sikh Leisure Centre, exhibiting artefacts and literature about the Muslim world. This proved to be extremely popular with the young people and other communities.

We actively supported and took part in the Mayor's multi-faith celebration at the Town Hall. Over three hundred from all walks of life and beliefs attended a memorable evening. This kind of event help to create goodwill, understanding and

promote friendship amongst people of different faiths. Earlier in the year, PCA also supported and took part in the Holocaust Memorial event at the Town Hall.

PCA has also encouraged and supported the work of Chaanun Youth Theatre Company. Once a part of PCA, the Chaanun has now become an independently constituted entity. Chaanun is very much rooted in the Asian cultural heritage but its work transcends across racial, cultural and social divides. Chaanun's work is also a key to achieving community cohesion. It's not surprising that the Company's work is also being welcomed and received outside Circles throughout the region. The company has built up a list of performers from different communities, and soon will be touring with its next production boasting a multi-racial/multi-cultural cocktail of local performers.

Through our Local Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Thornton Lodge, we sponsored and helped to organise the Thornton Lodge Community Festival. About 2000 local people of all backgrounds attended the festival. The fun activities were combined with information stalls by different agencies. There were special activities for children and women. Again, this was a great success and something, which should be repeated. These are few of the highlights of the year. None of the above would have been possible without the active support of our many committed volunteers, their families and the wider community.

We would like to record our appreciation of Mr.Asif Khan, the Senior Multicultural Arts officer with Kirklees Cultural Services, for his support and guidance, without which many of the above activities would not have been possible.

Tackling Social Exclusion through learning

A case study of good practice (NLC)

By Rashad Bukhari

Background

Thornton Lodge is an area in Huddersfield that has had an absence of community development and a community-based infrastructure. The local residents hold the view that the area has been allowed to decay over the last decade. It is in this context that the work of the Neighbourhood Learning Centre was located and subsequently developed since October 2001.

Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance (PCA), with support from KMC Community Education and Regeneration Department submitted a pilot project for the Neighbourhood Learning Centre in the Thornton Lodge area of Huddersfield. The proposal was successful and PCA was given funding for 12 months to test out the viability of neighbourhood learning approach and to establish a broadly based and flexible provision of learning and advice for the local residents. In the early stages of our development, we were very much guided by the findings and recommendations of a research-study commissioned by PCA titled, 'The Educational Needs of the Adult Pakistani Community in South Kirklees with special reference to the Lockwood and Thornton Lodge areas'.

The report highlighted a number of key areas of concerns and points for action, for example,

Lack of information and guidance about learning opportunities.

The education provision is to be locally based, flexible and culturally sensitive.

In a multicultural environment, multilingual approaches should be adopted for education.

The learning needs to build on and take account of the life experiences of learners.

The learning provision needs to be more family focused, enabling different generations and age groups to take part in a flexible and inclusive learning environment.

The NLC approach was based on the above framework and much of the activities were family orientated, flexible, and bilingual with an emphasis on engaging learners in a variety of different ways.

Once the funding from NIACE ceased, we received further funding from KMC Community Education and Regeneration Department until March 2003. For the next two months we received funding from Huddersfield Pride Ltd. until the Community Fund money came into effect. From 1st June 2003 until 31st May 2006, Community Fund is funding the NLC project.

Up until the Community Fund funding, NLC has been gradually creating a strong platform for itself now, with three years funding secured, it will excel to considerable heights with the support of partners to provide a thorough service to the local community.

What factors that helped to make the project successful:

A local base, at the heart of the local community shopping area, and within a walking distance from a number of local mosques and other key community facilities.

Timely support and advice from the KMC Community Education and Regeneration section, from the staff of the Kirklees Voluntary Action, and staff and members of the Kirklees UK-online project.

The capacity to employ fulltime project development worker and with adequate admin support meant that we were able to build and sustain links with our partner organisations and the local community.

The informality of our approach also helped. People felt at ease to come into the centre without feeling that they were entering into any kind of binding agreements.

The introduction of ICT facilities into the Learning centre helped to promote positive and practical image of the project. The 'see and touch' nature of ICT helped to generate confidence in the community suggesting that something useful was going to, eventually, happen. This helped to create a 'feel good' factor about the project.

Various information surgeries and information sessions around careers advice, drug abuse, fire safety, social care benefits etc helped the community tremendously.

The taster sessions in ICT, DIY, Beauty Therapy, and Driving Theory, etc. introduced a new type of learning to the community.

The Family Learning Summer School engaged about 14 families and the learning was designed to cater for children and parents.

The women 'only' learning programmes helped to attract women learners and mobilised that section of women, which because of their religious and cultural beliefs found it difficult to take part in mixed gender learning activities.

Bi-lingual approach enabled people to access learning who hitherto felt restricted by not having sufficient English language.

The facility to access Urdu newspapers on the Internet is proving to be very popular with Urdu speaking elders. After overcoming the initial barriers about IT and Inter net, some go on to other ICT based learning and projects. We are aiming to extend this facility in other south languages.

The flexible and informal approach to timetabling of the learning programmes without complex enrolment procedures and systems also greatly helped to attract learners who otherwise may be put off.

Delivery of learning programmes at different locations and easy to get to venues was very positively received.

Facilities for local children to access ICT facilities for their school based projects and homework helped to demonstrate the positive value of the centre. This also helped to create good will amongst parents and elders of the community.

The project has created a kind of 'buzz' in the community and people are being motivated to get involved in all kind of activities, For example, Ethnic Minority and Drugs (EMAD) project has been set up and operates from the centre in order to raise awareness and initiate preventative educational programmes around the issue of drugs abuse. Also, discussions are at an advanced stage to set up a local residents association for the area.

The lasting impact:

The community has been given a resource at their doorstep that they can access at ease and make practical use of.

In a least resourced and hugely deprived area a buzz atmosphere has been created where their needs are being catered for and they are cared about.

The local community is actively involved in the day to day running of the centre through the steering group and volunteers. The community has been given a resource they control, and individuals have gained vital skills of leadership and

advocacy. Three initiatives that have come about through NLC are: 1. Moves to set up a local residents group for the area that will take up issues of concern to the community; 1. EMAD (Ethnic Minorities And Drugs) has been established to raise awareness and organise preventative education programs around the issue of substance misuse; and, 3. Asian Healthy Community Network, that works with Asian elders around healthy eating, exercising, etc.

NLC has encouraged collaborative work between local community based projects and organisations.

NLC has become a focus for the local community in terms of advice, guidance, a place to network and share ideas.

Highlighted the needs of the local community to service providers and hopefully this will encourage other agencies to address these needs with the engagement of the local community.

NLC is encouraging and becoming a focus for across communities' links and collaborative working, hence, furthering the community cohesion agenda. The Thornton Lodge Festival was a very good example of NLC's role in bringing communities together.

DfES, NIACE, local MP's, Councillors, and Kirklees Officials have significantly raised the profile of the area through visits.

People's horizons have been broadened in terms of learning and learning opportunities.

People have benefitted by being introduced to learning opportunities in terms of their personal development and employability and access to education routes.

We have encouraged volunteering within the community.

Project and Management

Initially questions were raised about the involvement of Huddersfield Pakistani Alliance and its relationship with the local community, and to what extent would the management and control of the project be devolved to the local community. In response, the local steering group was established, and in the initial stages five focus groups were set up to advise on the development of the centre. Thirteen months after the conception of the NLC, it was made into an independent constituted organisation by PCA, therefore the day-to-day control and direction of the project is entirely on the shoulders of the NLC Management Committee.

Flexible learning programs:

Classes are timetabled throughout the day and evenings, scheduled to meet the needs of the target groups. The learning programs reflect the expressed interest of the local residents. We operate a system for logging the interest of potential learners. Some of these are enrolled onto learning programs through NLC and others are referred to appropriate agencies.

We have introduced an ICT based learning facilities with the help of UK Online initiative. For the ICT based learning we provide structured learning programmes for groups of learners as well as encouraging individuals to try their hands on using computer technology. People are now using our facilities for reading news, Emailing and chatting with family and relatives abroad, accessing the Internet for information and general recreation. This helps to breakdown barriers and takes away the fear element of using technology.

NLC works in partnership with a number of providers to maximise learning opportunities throughout the target area at different locations, e.g. Islamia Girls

College, Thornton Lodge Community Centre, Voluntary Action Kirklees, etc. learning, e.g., Beauty Tips and Driving Theory courses.

Women only provision on a selected day to cater for cultural sensitivity.

Promote learning through volunteering. A number of NLC volunteers have progressed into paid jobs within their chosen areas of interest and others have progressed as volunteers on other projects more suited to their interests.

NLC offers volunteers opportunities to pursue their careers, e.g. individuals studying C&G 730/7 teach or facilitate on selected programs on a voluntary basis to gain experience.

New Arrivals we have significant number of people coming into area for settlement, frequently the new arrivals are coming with considerable education, and with the lack of advice and guidance their talent goes to waste. The NLC has provided many of these individuals with voluntary opportunities and access to advice and guidance to further their careers by building on their education.

Family orientated learning:

Through NLC our focus is very much on family learning. Therefore our learning provision is widely based, diverse and flexible, targeting children, parents and grandparents, etc. For example, by making parents familiar with ICT they are able to appreciate and make sense of IT and its relevance to their children's education.

Equally parents who acquire the taste of learning are able appreciate the benefits of good education and hence are able to play a more supporting role to education of their children, both at personal and school level.

Throughout the summer of 2002 we ran a family learning program with multiple learning activities, this was a successful project and we are committed to running it again next summer during the school break.

HOME STUDY LEARNING

By Mumtaz Ali

In August 2002, Thornton Lodge ICT Centre organised and delivered a Family Learning programme over the summer break from schools. This was very successful and we were urged by both the children and their parents to run such activities again.

This is an early intervention scheme to address the issues of low achievement, performance and attendance in schools; we believe that the long-term solution is to create partnerships between parents, teachers and pupils. The role of the parent is perhaps the most underestimated and under developed area when considering educational attainment.

There is clearly a lack of learning environment and parental support in the home. This project will impress the importance of the fun learning culture at home.

The aim of the project is not to compete but rather to compliment the work of schools and support parents to change the ethos of education at home. This project will reduce the chances of children getting excluded from the school and society as a whole due to lack of parental and learning support.

The project will be Home study learning for children. The emphasis will be to engage both parents and children in learning activities, to enhance family learning.

There is a lack of achievement and active parental involvement in children's education, which is very clearly visible. As a result children become entangled in activities that are disturbing to local residents and the wider community, children tend to play football on the street or hang around large groups or gangs. This type of socialization has a negative effect on the child, which gets carried through in to the home and school causing adverse effects up to exclusion.

This lack of recreational learning is demonstrated by poor links with schools, lack of support with child's home work, and the main point of all, a lack of family based educational / leisure activities.

We hope to achieve the following objectives:

This programme will help to raise the children's attainments.

By making learning an enjoyable and rewarding experience will help to reduce absenteeism.

It will involve parents, wider family and demonstrate to them the benefits of home support and encouragement for their children.

It will help to increase the level of confidence and commitment between parent's, children, wider family and between parents and schools. Reducing the potential of less inter generational conflicts thus leading to a happy family environment which will lead to children having better school educational achievements.

This will impact the local community as we see education as a vital tool for social cohesion, an important vehicle for cultural enrichment and key to developing the nation's economic prosperity.

This will empower the local community to develop a culture of valuing the need to educate.

Summary

The project will provide a favourable learning environment at home, raise the attainment levels and involve parents in the child's schoolwork.

By making learning an enjoyable element for children and parents, this will reduce the absenteeism from school and increase involvement of parents in the child's well being.

This project will reduce the chances of children getting excluded from the school and society as a whole due to lack of learning support. With this front, by improving the children's learning, they will have a much clearer involvement and will have a voice.

Neighbourhood Learning Centre Activities

ICT courses
Driving Theory
Beauty Tips Taster Course
Urdu In-page Taster Course
Referrals to other agencies
Assistance with job search
Benefits advice
Family Learning Summer School
Equal skills
Fire Service Seminar for females
Black Governors Seminar
Research Report Launch
Volunteers support
People supported into employment
Thornton Lodge Community Festival

VISION

The Pakistani Community Alliance (The Alliance) is a broadly based forum of Pakistani community based organisations, and individuals in Huddersfield.

The Alliance seeks to facilitate Pakistani community based organisations to explore opportunities for joint working, sharing of good practice and strengthening of each other's role.

The Alliance is committed to working closely with voluntary, private and public agencies and offers opportunities for genuine consultation and involvement of the Pakistani community.

The Alliance recognises that the Pakistani community is one of the most disadvantaged and deprived communities in Huddersfield and seeks to work closely with voluntary, private and public agencies in order to redress the balance. The Alliance fully recognises the value of partnership approach and networking with other disadvantaged groups.

The Alliance is fully committed to ensuring equality of opportunities in all its activities.