



Huddersfield Pakistani
Community Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015

H P C A M A N A G E M E N T C O M M I T T E E :

Registered Directors:

Shazad Hussain-Chairperson
Amar Usman Ali (Treasurer)
Shazia Rani
Aasma Akhtar - (Resigned 06.06.2014)
Mohammed Yaseen - (Resigned 07.07.23014)

Additional Committee members:

Azherlatif - Youth Lead
Khairunnisa Bi - Vice Chair
Yasif Saleem
Atia Bano
Adil Hussain
Tara Sharif
Shagfuta Amjad

Staff:

Sofia Buncy - Development worker
Mumtaz Ali - Development Officer.
Aadil Yousaf

Sessional youth support staff:

Fozia Latif
Ayesha Javed
Adil Yousaf
Ayesha Rafiq
Mohammed Yaseen

Partnership agencies:

Kirklees Council:
Children & Adult Services:
Integrated Youth Support Service
Muslim Hands
British Army
Forward Thinking
North Huddersfield Trust School
Kirklees Local TV
New Hall Prison
West Yorkshire Probation Services
West Yorkshire Police.
QED-UK
Khidmat Centre, Bradford.
Third Sector Leaders.
Ravensthorpe Community Centre
Kirklees Libraries and Museum
City of Sanctuary

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

In keeping with its tradition, HPCA continues to push ahead with ground breaking work for the benefit of the community. This year very much has been about consolidation and planning for the future. Our youth provision continues to thrive and excel in Thornton Lodge and Birkby neighbourhoods. The demand for the youth provision in Birkby has increased substantially and plans are afoot for an additional session per week. The first phase of the Prison rehabilitation support project for Muslim women was successfully completed and a comprehensive report based in its findings was published and launched at the turn of the new financial year. The report was well received by the major stakeholders and by the local and national media. We are grateful to Muslim Hands for having the foresight and courage to envisage and financially support the project. Based on the recommendations of the report, Muslim Hands is considering the rolling of the project nationally whilst at the same keeping local delivery by HPCA intact.

The GCSE booster classes also funded by the Muslim Hands have proven to be a complete success. The feedback from parents and students is very positive. All the indications are this provision will not only be maintained but expanded.

We will continue to aim high with your support and active involvement. I am pleased to commend this annual report to you. I pray that the report makes an informative reading about the work of the organisation and encourages you, the reader, to be more involved.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the HPCA management committee and all the staffs for their unreserved support in making my role more rewarding.

Shazad Hussain

foreword

ANNUAL OVERVIEW

Presently HPCA has a number of Service Level Agreements (SLA) with Kirklees Council Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) and Muslim Hands, and commissioning arrangements with QED and UK Online.

The SLA with IYSS is to deliver four sessions of youth activities in Thornton Lodge neighbourhood and one in Birkby. This has been a rolling SLA that is reviewed annually. The SLA was initially put in place to engage young people of Pakistani/ Kashmiri origin who were found not to be taking up the provision. As result of SLA over the years, HPCA through its youth engagement arm, Pakistani Youth Forum (PYF) has been to strike a right note with young people and their families. This has resulted in a good sustained take up of youth activities by young people from the neighbourhood. This provision acts as a platform for young people to try out and broaden their involvement in other projects leadership programmes, community research, crime preventative work, fund raising for worthy cause, holocaust memorial work, Prevent, community cohesion and speaking for their neighbourhood. Regular activities are supported by project work, visits and excursions.

All sessions are well attended and enjoyed by young people. Our particular success is around engaging and supporting young women. We make every effort to make our delivery safe and culturally appropriate. All our staffs are well trained, culturally aware and sensitive to parental concerns.

Of course all this would not happen without the much needed support and guidance from the staff of the Kirklees Integrated Youth Support Service. It is only appropriate their input is recorded and given due appreciation.



PROJECT WORK

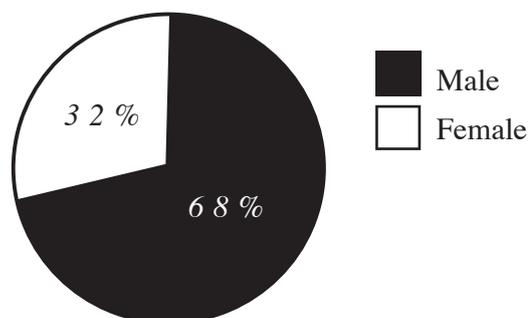
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

*HUDDERSFIELD PAKISTANI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
PAKISTANI YOUTH FORUM
ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ACTIVITIES*

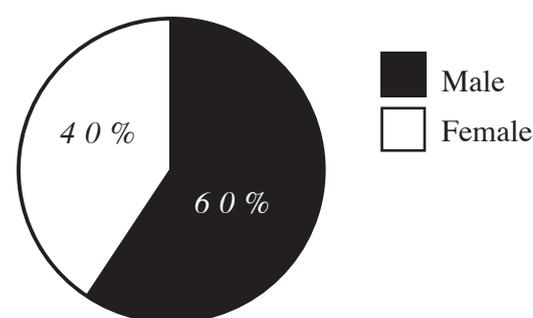
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SUNDAY
<i>Birkby</i>	<i>Thornton Lodge</i>	<i>Birkby</i>	<i>Thornton Lodge</i>	<i>Thornton Lodge</i>	<i>Thornton Lodge</i>
Recreational activity	Recreational activity	Recreational activity	Recreational activity	Leadership group	Female only
Topic based group work	Recreational activity	Recreational activity			
Inspirational speakers (role models).	Intensive topic based group work / research	Topic based group work			
Inspirational/ learning visits.	Inspirational/ learning visits.	Inspirational/ learning visits.	Inspirational/ learning visits.	Inspirational speakers (role models).	Inspirational speakers (role models).
				Inspirational/ learning visits.	Inspirational/ learning visits.

CAREER PATH | EDUCATION | COMMUNITY SERVICE / VOLUNTEERING | PEER ROLE MODELS

BIRKBY/FARTOWN
YOUTH PROVISION



THORNTON LODGE
YOUTH PROVISION



SECOND CHANCE: FRESH HORIZONS

REHABILITATION SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM WOMEN PRISONERS.

This was a new and ground breaking project funded by the Islamic International Charity 'Muslim Hands' as part of the charity's work in the UK.

HPCA was commissioned by Muslim Hands to undertake a pilot project into the needs of Muslim women in prison and some of the additional challenges and issues which may impact on their successful integration back into the society after their release. The pilot lasted over the 18 months culminating into a substantial report entitled "Muslim Women in Prison". The report was published and launched at a successful event of major stakeholders. The reported was well received and commended as a unique, honest, challenging and very practical in its recommendations.

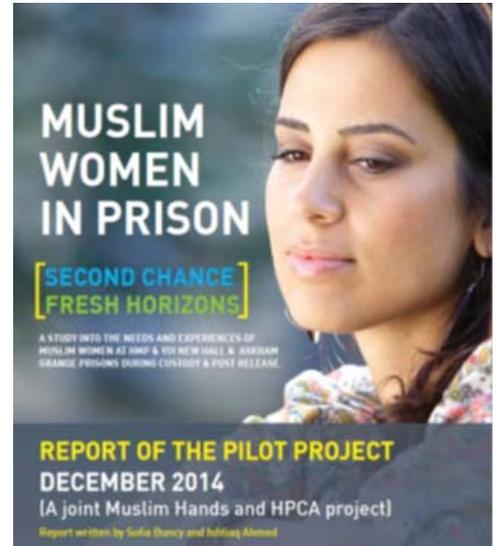
The pilot project concluded: Muslim women in prison do not feature on the radar. Very little is known about the challenges and issues they face on leaving prisons. They have to overcome additional and exceptional challenges and hurdles in the form of rejection, cultural and taboos and forced family/community isolation. The Muslim community is more accepting of male prisoners, females are marginalised and labelled as bringing 'shame' on the family and community. A range of needs were identified and points of action were highlighted, some in alignment to those of traditional ex-prisoner but mostly additional and exceptional needs for example:

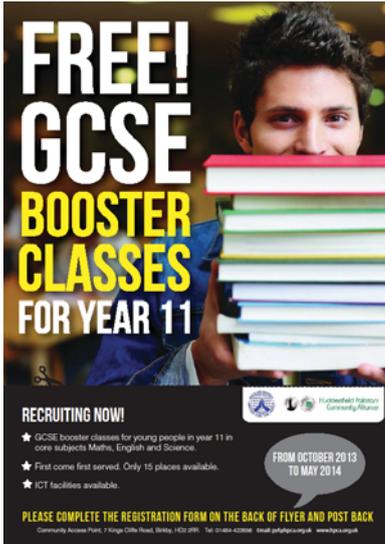
1. Settling back into the community: help with housing and benefit entitlement and other entitlements.
2. Having to someone to talk to on leaving the prison particularly if they chosen to move a new area. Some women do not move back their towns and cities for the fear of backlash from parents and community as well as general stigma.
3. Re uniting with their children, in some cases children may be relocated by the family in Pakistan. In other cases we are finding some of the mothers' children have been adopted or fostered and the mothers would like access or visiting rights.
4. Immigration advice and support
5. Reconciliation work with parents and the family.

PARTICULAR ISSUES :

- Rejection by family and breakdown of the family unit.
- Cultural taboos which make acceptance within the family and the community difficult.
- Isolation and rejection.
- Immigration issues: self and children.
- The majority of cases are demonstrating relocation, unfamiliarity with surroundings.
- Rebuilding self esteem, confidence, re-socialising them as parents, active citizens and as future employees.
- The majority of women we are working with are new Muslim reverts hence they require support and harnessing in their new found faith and morality to remain steadfast and reduce reoffending.

The report was published and widely established and now has become a key document for understanding and formulating policy and practice to help to mitigate needs, issues and concerns of Muslim women prisons. Based on the findings and the recommendations of the report, Muslim Hands have expanded the project nationwide with team of specialists working with different prison establishment and provide advice and practical support matters specific to Muslim women prisoners.





GCSE BOOSTER CLASSES :

This pilot project is funded by Muslim Hands to support Muslim children in year 10 & 11 studying for their GCSEs. The Pilot was to support 12 students but we were oversubscribed. We have increased the available places to 15 students (male/ female equal mix) but there is a demand for more places. The students were taken on the first come, first serve basis.

Students are helped in Maths, Science and English. Already, the benefits of this additional support are there to be seen.

At the start of each subject cohort all the children were assessed by the tutor. These children were reassessed at the end of the each cohort to ascertain progress and to discover that each student had moved a level up from his/ her position.

We would be closely monitoring the performance of these students in GCSEs in their respective schools. The pilot will hopefully highlight and bring to the forth essential learning about the need for embedding additional support to move the Muslim children through the schooling system.



UK ONLINE-ENGLISH MY WAY:

English My Way is a fresh approach to English language learning, focused on supporting adults with no or low levels of English to better integrate with their local communities. The scheme involved offering personalised support to adults on listening and speaking in English. Individuals get a chance to practice having a conversation and in the process learning very basics about how to make a doctor's appointment. The programme will deliver a 24 week blended learning programme, which will be delivered through a mix of tutor-led sessions, online learning and volunteer group activity.



NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP SERVICE:

We have actively been involved on the National Citizens Service (NCS) which is a government-backed programme for 16-17 years old. NCS gives young people a chance to build confidence and independence, and learn the lessons that can't be taught in class by going on residential. Towards the end of the programme young people come back into their own communities and deliver on a community/charitable project. During 2013 our NCS group of young people worked on developing a DVD called 'Young & Fasting' that would raise awareness of fasting. Young people wrote, directed and acted. The DVD idea was so highly recognised that National Citizens Service head office used the video that the young people had developed to train their regional NCS managers on what to expect when delivering NCS programme during the Ramadan month with young people from Muslim faith.



CHAND RAAT:

This was a women only social event held at the Birkby Community Centre. Over 300 women from throughout Huddersfield and the neighbouring areas participated.

The Chand Raat is held in anticipation of the moon sighting for Eid ul Fitre to mark the ending of the Month of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting. Women from the community get together to rejoice, celebrate in anticipation of the Eid. The celebrations are also combined to raise funds for various charitable causes.



Giving Young People A Chance, Choice & Voice