

DIVERSITY OF GROUPS IN BRADFORD

Judith Sargent and Fozia Saleem,
Barnardo's Parenting Centre,
Bradford

City of Contrasts

Town



Country



Churches



Mosques



Reputation

Curry



Media



Sport



Poverty



Statistics

- Bradford is fifth largest metropolitan area in country
- It is eighth most deprived health community
- Infant Mortality is above the UK average
- The population is set to increase by 1/3 over the next 20 years
- 25% of the population is from BME background

Family Links in Bradford

- History
- Structure
- Current Picture
- Highlights
- Work with BME Communities



History of Family Links in Bradford

- Audit of parenting work in Children's Centres in 2006
- Funded by Early Years
- Named in Parenting Strategy 2007
- Funding through individual agencies, NAPP and PEIP
- Roll out to whole District and range of sectors

Structure of support from Barnardo's Parenting Centre

- 2 Programme Co-ordinators
- 2 Parenting Practitioners
- Membership of Parenting Board
- Links with Commissioners
- Partnerships with variety of agencies
- Co-ordinated training courses
- Offered peer support, mentoring and advice

Current Picture

- Approx 150 trained practitioners
- Delivering in a variety of settings
- Lots of universal and early intervention work
- Some targeted groups – parents with mental health problems, parents with children at risk of or in care, parents with substance mis-use issues, parents of disabled children, parents from BME Communities.

Highlights – what have we learnt

Groups for parents of disabled children:

- Staff with specialist knowledge
- Relationship building with parents before the group
- Adaptations to the resources used and scenarios given
- Focus on the needs of the parents and the siblings, not only the disability

Groups for adult substance mis-users:

- Responding to where the parents/carers are
- Don't underestimate their skills
- Bringing other colleagues on board
- Mix of age and gender of facilitators

Working with BME communities



20/07/2008

Learning from Peer Support

■ Obstacles

- Lack of experience to use resources
- Lack of confidence in delivering Islamic Values training

Groups Delivered

- Family Links in Urdu- Midland Road Nursery School & Children's Centre

- Family Links with Islamic Values- LaPage Primary School

Breakdown of the two groups

- 20 mums in total, all of a Pakistani background
- 13 mums had come over to England recently
- 2 of the mums had been taken out of education at an early age

Issues

- Difficulty to exert control
- Feeling isolated when challenging others
- Lack of support from other family members
- Didn't know how to teach Islamic Values
- They felt their Islamic upbringing had been too strict

Amazing Moments

■ Praise really is magic

■ One mum tried praise previously and was told not to do it by her family, she gave it another go and backed it up with FLNP reasoning and she said the second time round it worked wonders!

■ The Power of Personal Power

■ Another mum had never tapped into her personal power as she thought it was disrespectful to speak up for herself, she soon changed her mind when she was provided with an Islamic context !

Benefits for the parents

- Balancing Islamic Parenting with Western approaches
- Confidence in their own choices
- Providing opportunities for dads to be more involved with their children
- Importance of allowing children to socialise outside of the home
- Strengthened beliefs
- Cultural cohesion

Believe in
children



Barnardo's
Yorkshire



Barnardo's Registered Charity
Nos. 216250 and SC037605