

## **Appendix G – The work of Keighley Asian Women and Childrens Centre (KAWACC)**

### **Purpose of the report**

KAWACC has worked in partnership with United Keighley working group, constituting multiagency of local organizations based in Keighley. The group has established a safe space to co ordinate regular meetings, discussing issues relating to CSE, and raising awareness in and around Keighley and Bradford.

The group constitutes a range of agencies that have a keen interest in supporting work associated with CSE. These have included Bradford Safeguarding, West Yorkshire Police, Social Care, Early Help, Community Workers, Local Councilors, local organizations, Faith Institutes and local primary and secondary Schools. The admin support has been offered by the Area Co- coordinator (Bradford Met) office. This forum provides a wider context and perspective for professional working in this area. There is also a strategic plan that draws the work up together joining up thinking and working.

How has this been done?

The group was formed together under the Racial Justice Network, funded by Joseph Rountree Charitable Trust, and hosted by CABAD. Due to media attention surrounding CSE cases, public perception in regards to this taboo subject brought negativity within the Keighley community, causing segregation due to the sensitivity of culture and faith.

To counter this problem a statement was prepared by Reverent Pritchard of Shared Churches, who worked very closely with the network. The United Keighley statement is a clear and unequivocal condemnation of grooming. It also invited the people of Keighley to commit to addressing grooming together. It was based on an earlier letter signed by the local MP, councilors from across the political and ethnic spectrum, churches and mosques and other community organisations. It also deliberately deracinated the issue. All organizations were invited to join as a working group to counter CSE in Keighley. A lot of time, and hard work was put together by the group all done on a voluntary basis. There was a rise in awareness raising events within Keighley. There were banners provided by the church stating 'All young people matter' teal ribbons were made by women from diverse backgrounds and distributed in the community to promote CSE awareness. This work was a collective contribution from people from all walks of life.

Muslim Women's Council and KAWACC in conjunction with Bradford Safeguarding Board delivered the FRAGILE project in Partnership across the Bradford District in Secondary Schools and faith institutes (mosques/ madrassas). The project facilitated discussions to men and young boys of Pakistani ethnicity in and around Bradford, including Keighley. The project utilised a values based approach to creating awareness around CSE, creating safe spaces to unpack values we live by, unpack cultural, faith and traditional nuances that impact how we form values and how these values then translate into how we parent, choices we make and how we live our lives. This preventative approach was comprehensive and has allowed seeds of CSE prevention to be implanted in both young men of Pakistani ethnicity and at the centre of traditional Asian families.

KAWACC has been leading the e5 project with three other partners CABAD, ICLS and JAMES to deliver preventative work with women and young women across Keighley who are at risk of CSE and violence against them. The project has been delivered across Keighley in primary and secondary schools, Community Organization and faith institutes for over 3 years and we are in our last year of this project. This project has enabled us to engage with women and young girls through direct and indirect work to develop their confidence, self-esteem, self-worth and assertiveness through a range of activity sessions and workshops that have been designed to equip them with the knowledge, tools and support needed to reach their full potential. This project has provided a gateway to access marginalized girls, who may not necessarily be engaged in mainstream services but who are lacking in self-esteem and are at particular risk of sexual exploitation, grooming and domestic abuse.

KAWACC has also worked in partnership with Barnados to develop the DICE Parenting Programme for all parents of pre-teens and teenagers. The programme aims to raise awareness about the risks children face growing up in a modern digital world and provide practical parenting support ideas.

The programme is 4 weeks long and covers topics about the life of a teenager; exploitation and grooming; digital dangers; parenting top tips and support services. We have delivered this programme at Ingrow Primary, Victoria Primary, Good Sheppard Centre and KAWACC. This programme has trained a number of professionals to deliver DICE in their communities and organisations. The programme has been developed to make it more culturally appropriate for people from diverse backgrounds to have a better understanding.

For the last two years the United Keighley Working Group has organised a day conference and coordinated activities for CSE awareness week. This year it focused on providing local schools with resources that would help them engage more effectively. It was based on the premise that schools are the most effective way to reach children at risk of, or are being sexually exploited: all children in Keighley go to school - apart from the home educated. The conference encouraged 'school leads' to see their own work in a wider perspective.

At the same time the working group worked alongside community organisations to see how they might mark CSE awareness in terms of their own rationale. For instance, the main town Centre Church (Keighley Shared Church) organised an evening service reflecting and praying about CSE, whilst two mosques had meetings following on from Friday Prayer. The United Keighley statement was translated into Urdu/Bengali by KAWACC to enable the audiences' to have a clear understanding of the message.

The working group continues to meet. The challenge continues to be great. And together we continue to make a difference in Keighley.

## **Recommendations**

- Have a clear bespoke message of what you want the community to buy into
- Work very closely with your grass root organizations as they know their community better
- Strengthen your relationship with the community faith groups and be more visible
- Work closely with the schools and safeguarding staff and improve communication channels.
- Use the schools and community organizations to engage at a grass root level
- Establish community ambassadors

- Set up local groups to disseminate information into communities
- Provide continuance support to organizations through networking training and events.
- Strengthen links with MP's and local councilors
- Empower local business to be the people to voice your message ( especially barbers)
- Invite local communities at events and awareness sessions.
- More visible signs and images in and around community spaces about CSE
- More Intensive work between the Police, Council and the community to build trust and resilience.
- More awareness events in and around the city regularly