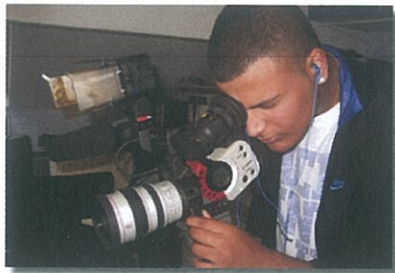




Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance

Annual Report 2010 - 2011



Produced by Ishtiaq Ahmed, Mumtaz Ali & Sofia Buncy
Photographs by: members of Pakistani Youth Forum.

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Foreword by Board of Directors

Over the recent years the work of Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance (HPCA) has become more defined and focused towards young people. This shift in emphasis was both deliberate and timely.

British Young people of Pakistani Muslim background are victims of negative projections on a number of accounts: The High profile actions of a few misguided does not help; Pakistan's image abroad as a breeding ground for terrorist cells also negatively impacts on perceptions about British Pakistani Muslims who continue to have family, cultural and emotional ties with that country. If not this then the young British Pakistanis are readily labelled and dismissed as 'underachievers', 'criminals', 'druggies' and 'parasites.' Any thing other than that is regarded as an exception to the general plight of young British Pakistanis.

Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance is not complacent about any of the real issues that are holding back and adversely affecting the welfare of British Pakistanis: The threat to the harmony and peace of the British Pakistanis' generally and the young people from disruptive elements are a real one; the fact that Increasing number of young people, traditionally from law abiding homes, are ending up on wrong side of the law is something that is a major concern for all of us; young people leaving their education without their potential being fulfilled bothers every parent; that they are unable to access or are held back from taking the full advantage of life opportunities and are then abandoned or ostracised as social 'parasites' does not escape our attention.

The Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance takes the view that Majority of young British Pakistanis aspire to do well in life; wish to do well for their families and the community; are law abiding; and take great pride in being British Pakistanis. For them Britain is their first and permanent home. "I would be silly to destroy my home" was said by one of the members of the Pakistani Youth Forum.

HPCA wanted to give an opportunity to young people to lead from the front by harnessing their energy and creativity, and nurturing their immense talent and skills. The Pakistani Youth Forum (PYF) was established to pioneer projects and activities aimed at supporting the development of young British Pakistanis in Huddersfield.

Although, youth development has accounted for the bulk of the HPCA's work, other facilities and services of wider appeal have also been developed with the needs of the adult population in the area, for example, benefits advice, ESOL classes, IT classes for adults, etc. Details of these are provided in the ensuing pages.

At the time of writing this report, we are very mindful of the devastation inflicted by floods in Pakistan and the plight of millions who are subjected to endless cycle of misery. We at the same time wish to place on the record our appreciation for all who have given so generously for flood affected communities. At the instigation of HPCA and with the support of Kirklees Council, United Huddersfield has been established to coordinate fund raising efforts. United Huddersfield brings some of the key institutions in the town together to make a collective and sustained effort in support of flood affected communities. It is hoped that this consortium will become a permanent feature in Huddersfield for coordinating support for other disasters and emergencies elsewhere.

The Board acknowledges the contribution of Mumtaz Ali and Sofi Buncy and their many many talented young volunteers for making this year so successful and productive for the organisation and the community. We also welcome back Ishtiaq Ahmed to HPCA who has rejoined Mumtaz and Sofi to support the development of HPCA. The Board also would like to thank Fozia Latif for her contributions to the work HPCA. Finally, we take this opportunity to thank Mohammed Imran, our co-chair, who because of his other commitments had to resign from the board.

HPCA Board of Directors.

HPCA Board Members

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| • Shahzia Rani (Chair) | • Shahzad Hussain, | • Asif Raja. |
| • Aasma Akhtar (Secretary) | • Shahid Raja, | • Aasma Akhtar, |
| | • Nusrat Yasmin, | • Shazia Kauser, |
| | • Kishver Azam, | • Sarwat Hafeez |

Adult Services

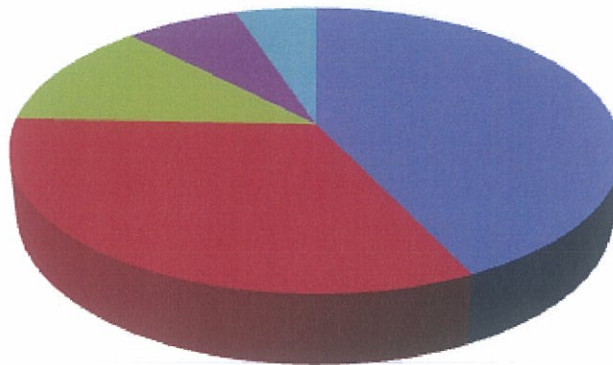
Information and Advice:

This provision is very popular with the local residents many of whom do not have necessary language skills and other know how to access help and advice from elsewhere. The facility is ideally situated within an easy reach by foot. We offer a confidential and culturally sensitive service to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Our staff and volunteers are sympathetic, well trained and bilingual i.e. competent in local community languages and dialects.

The Information and Advice provision is offered from Monday to Friday with the exception of bank holidays and designated religious and cultural days.

Advice and guidance

- Telephone support
- Form filling
- Interpreting letters
- Photocopying
- Sundry



Enquires and requests for help:

These range from benefit related advice, making appointments, immigration matters, visas related information, council services, form filling, letter reading and writing, telephone enquiries, and translations of letters and documents.

Meeting space with newspapers, magazines and television:

This facility is very popular with adults who use it as an opportunity to relax and make friends. This is also an opportunity for them to read news papers and magazines in their languages and keep in touch with news in Britain and their countries of origin.

Access to internet facilities:

This is an opportunity for adults who may not feel confident to use internet facilities to try their hand with help and encouragement. Once, people are encouraged to overcome their initial inhibitions, they apply their newly found skills for keeping in touch with friends, information down loads and communication.

Photo-copying, Fax and emailing facilities:

These are offered to all beneficiaries and are extensively used.

Employment Access Support:

This facility is offered in partnership with QED-UK, an organisation based in Bradford which specialises in education and employment to BME communities. Under this scheme the employment advisor offers free advice and guidance on employment issues; helps individuals to clarify personal work goals and ambitions; present skills and experiences to employers; carry out job search, update CV's and complete job applications; and improve interview skills.

Women Only Provision

We offer wide ranging educational and leisure activities for women in culturally sensitive, safe and supportive settings. The aim is for women, hitherto from reserved and conservative family backgrounds, to network, organise and take part in activities with other women from similar backgrounds, aimed at reducing their isolation.



Women only trips:

To nearby resorts and places are offered and are very popular not only with the regular beneficiaries of our services but to other women in the area. These trips also help us to get to know women and encourage them to join and access other activities and services provided. These are very popular with women.

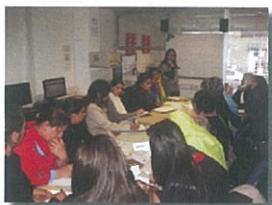
Celebration meals:

At the end of each course or training, a celebration event is organised where students are encouraged to bring other women from their families or a friend. This way we are also able to encourage women to join various courses and also to spread the message around.

Eid and New Year celebration:

Are good occasions for women to socialise, network and make friends as well as promoting and celebrating.

Women Only Learning Provision:

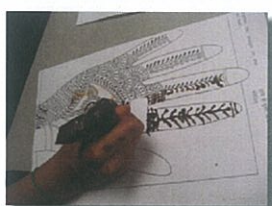


IT classes:

This course was delivered over five weeks. 12 women successfully completed the training.

Health & Social care:

Delivered over five weeks. 18 women successfully completed the course.



Mehndi class:

Delivered over five weeks. 9 women successfully completed the course.

English Language Classes:

Four courses were offered over the year and 125 women took part and successfully completed the course and gained competency in English language.



Banner Craft Class:

8 women attend the course to learn and improve their art and craft skills. In the process they designed and completed a collage banner to donate to the flood affected community in Pakistan.

Keep Fit class:

12 women are taking part in this Keep Fit class on a weekly basis.

Sewing Class:

15 women have registered to take part in this class.

Total number of women benefiting from the above learning opportunities was: 199

Youth Engagement & Development

The HPCA has a Service Level agreement (SLA) with Kirklees Young People's Service to develop and deliver facilities and services for young people in the Thornton Lodge area of Huddersfield. HPCA also draws on resources from other sources to supplement and support a wide range of activities and projects for young people.

Pakistan Youth Forum, a youth led wing of HPCA, over sees the planning and delivery of all facilities, projects and services for the young people in the area. Young people's creativity and energy is visible in a wide range of innovative and challenging projects and activities that PYF has pioneered over the recent years and more so over the last twelve months. PYF sees young people as pioneers of change and this is very much in evidence in the way we work with young people on the ground.

Youth engagement is made possible through a diverse range of activities and projects led by young people for young people.

Internet Learning Cafe:

Developed by young people, the Internet Learning Cafe is a safe space for young people to socialise, network and plan their projects and activities. The Internet Learning Cafe houses IT suite with internet facilities, a meeting room, office space and a small kitchen. Extensively, used by young people, the Internet Learning Cafe offers a cosy, informal and disciplined environment. Young people are encouraged and supported to take responsibility and do their own policing of the space.



Regular weekly Sessions @ Internet Learning Café
This is four days a week youth sessions for young people aged between 13 - 19 years old:

- Tuesday & Thursday mixed sessions from 6.00pm – 9.00pm
- Friday & Sunday 'girls only' sessions from 5.00pm-8.00pm



These sessions provide an ideal opportunity for young people to socialise, make friends, use internet, join discussion groups, get help with homework, read news papers, receive support with preparing CVs and applications for jobs, discuss personal issues and receive advise, watch TV, listen to music or simply chill. These sessions are very much about providing a safe space for young people to be with and amongst their peer group. The sessions also serve to engage young people's hopes, aspirations and interests. Many young people from these sessions go onto join other projects supported by PYF.

Facilities and Activities



Booster revision classes:

The aim of the provision was to support young people to prepare for their GCSE examinations with view to increasing their attainment levels in the core subjects Mathematics, English and Science. Two hour sessions for each of the subject area per week were offered over 12 weeks. 44 young people benefited from the provision. The feedback from young people and their parents was extremely positive and some of the young people truly excelled in their attainments as a result.

This project was part of our active citizenship work with young people where we encouraged them to take more interest in the local issues and take responsibility to do something about these.



Sports:

PYF offers sports activities for young people. PYF's football team for under 13 has joined the Bupa League. Also, our young people have taken part in local five-a-side football tournaments, which had teams representing diverse communities in Huddersfield. Young people are also encouraged to take up other sports such as swimming and rugby.

Young girls have taken part in canoeing, touch and tag rugby, yoga and aerobic. PYF is working in partnership with Rugby Foundation League (RFL) to introduce the sport to the South Asian community and encourage its take up in terms of employment prospects and participation. The members of the PYF took part in the RFL consultation aimed at understanding the perceptions and experiences of rugby league amongst Asian Muslim young people. The findings of this consultation are published in the report which could be read on our website: www.hpca.org.uk



Engaging Disabled Young Persons:

PYF offered a programme of activities over the Holiday Activity period for Asian young people with disability and for their carer's. The programme offered opportunities for disabled young people and their carers to take part in recreational and arts & crafts based programme in a community setting along with other young people, (something that the community had not had much access to in the past). 40 young people took part who also were given opportunity to visit Ponderosa Animal Farm. The programme helped to create social bonding between the young people and their carers as well as providing befriending and network opportunities. Plans have been finalised for the next programme of activities which will include sessions on using musical instruments.



Summer School:

25 children between the ages of 8 -12 took part with support of their parents. This is a regular summer activity welcomed and enjoyed by children and their parents. We offer a varied choice of educational, recreational and leisure activities. Parents and young volunteers help out with activities. The summer school creatively occupies children as well as providing parents for social networking.



Food for thought:

Young people from PYF took part in a series of meals hosted by Kirklees Museum and Galleries in partnership with Kirklees Faiths Forum to raise awareness about the holocaust. A DVD based on these sessions has been used by young people to share their learning and experiences with other young people in the PYF.

Fund Raising in support of flood victims in Pakistan:

Huddersfield Pakistani Community alliance with involvement of young people organised a series of fund raising events for the flood affected families in Pakistan. Amongst other things, this involved young people volunteering to work at the 'car wash' stations to raise funds and organising a charity dinner at Kirklees Town Hall.



Drum and Dhol Music Sessions:

Music playing sessions were offered using South Asian Dhol and the African Caribbean drums. These sessions were very popular with both male and female attendees who thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands on these energising instruments- a kind of Asian / African Caribbean music fusion.



Drama Group:

This was a welcomed and enjoyable opportunity offered to 8 to 12 years and 13 to 19 years old. The development sessions were delivered over three school terms, consisting of ten sessions per term. One of the groups did a story line on 'victims of flood' and they presented then at a community event at Huddersfield Town Hall. As a consequence they went on the live radio show to talk about their project and raise funds for the floods.

Celebration meals:

At the end of each course or training, a celebration event is organised where students are encouraged to bring other women from their families or a friend. This way we are also able to encourage women to join various courses and also to spread the message around.

Project Work



Media Box-What's your story? :

A media based project funded by the Media Box. A team of young people researched the experiences of new arrivals and contrasted these with those already settled in the area from South Asian, African Caribbean and white indigenous communities. All the interviews were captured on video cameras, edited and placed on DVD. Through this project young people were able to obtain direct insight into the experiences of different communities over the years and to be able to answer the question, "Has anything really changed?" Young people also learned useful filming, editing, interviewing techniques and skills.



Be Heard! Thornton Lodge Community Centre:

A team of young people researching the views of local residents about the future use of the Thornton lodge community centre which is being rebuilt by the Council following an arson attack in which the previous building was destroyed. Views of local residents are being asked about their involvement, ownership of the centre and potential use. The research findings will be presented by young people to Kirklees Council and local residents in January 2011.



Young Ethical Pioneers (YEP):

This is a partnership project between the Pakistani Youth Forum, Kirklees Young People's Service and the Lorna Young Foundation. A group of young people from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds are working towards an ethical fair trade business model. They are learning and developing skills to design and market their own fair trade product. The process would include a trip to Kenya (Nehru) to learn about fair trade and how to establish an ethical social enterprise. The group is also being supported by the Huddersfield Chambers of Commerce.



Desi to Pardesi (Home and Away)

This is an inter-generational heritage project. Young people are taking a step back through time and into the shoes of their parents and grandparents as part of discovering their heritage and identity. The project involves delving into newspaper and library archives, inviting local residents to provide access to old passports, photographs, and memorabilia which sheds light on the life in Huddersfield for first arrivals. As part of the project, interviews are also being conducted for a DVD which will accompany planned exhibitions and displays. The project also provides opportunities for members of the team to learn useful new skills in archiving the past and the present and media based skills around interviewing, camera shoot and planning.



Watch our Neighbourhood:

Young people researched the conditions and the facilities in the area. They went into their neighborhoods with cameras photographing 5 good things and 5 bad things which they observed. Also, they solicited the views of some the young and older residents about the life in the area and spoke of their concerns. These findings were presented to the elected members and officers at the Huddersfield Town Hall.

Fartown High School Partnership:

HPCA is an active partner of a trust that has been established to take over the running of the Fartown High School. The aim is to transfer the ownership of the school to the local community.

The partners include the Holmfirth High School as the lead educational partner, the University of First Age, the Parents of black Children Association, Kirklees Active Leisure and Cummins Turbo Technologies Ltd.

Partnership Organisations

- Kirklees Council
- Kirklees Young Peoples Services
- West Yorkshire Police
- Rugby Foundation League
- Kirklees Faith Forum
- Media Box
- Voluntary Action Kirklees
- Lorna Young Foundation
- Workers Education Association
- Fartown High School
- Moor End Technology College
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Kirklees College
- Greenhead College
- M. Y. Chambers of Commerce
- United Huddersfield (Kirklees Council, Kirklees College, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield Giants, M.Y. Chambers of Commerce, Radio Paigham, Kirklees Interfaith Forum, Kabana, Radio Paigham and Huddersfield Town Football Club)
- QED-UK (Bradford)
- Khidmat Centers (Bradford)



Break Down Barriers



Case Studies - Inspiring Leaders



Celebrates Big Day



Changing Attitudes



Desi to Pardesi



Do Your Homework



Fact Finding Mission



Fair Trade Funds at Eid Party



Food Appeal Poster



From Desi to Pardesi



GCSE Booster Class Success



Gun & Knife Crime



Holiday Fun



Inclusion



Inspiration From The Golden Ages



Internet Learning Cafe



Italy Race Talks



Muslim Women Visit Spain



PC Warns About Knife Crime



Pictures Speak Many Words



Play Week at Cafe



Police Tournament



Princes Trust



Quake Aid Trip



Qualities Of Leadership



RFL Newsletter



Soccer Team



Sports News



Study in Asian Settlers



Success in GCSEs



Teens Present Their View of Local Area



The Weekend Examiner



Year of enterprise



YEP article



Young Community Champions



You're Hired!

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