



# Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance



**Annual Report October 2000 - September 2001**

# HUDDERSFIELD PAKISTANI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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### President's Comment

Dr. Nasim Hasnie O.B.E

I am delighted to commend the second Annual Report of the Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance to you all for your consideration and approval.

The Pakistani Community Alliance is now an established organisation. Over the last twelve months the organisation has developed and implemented a clear work programme which included celebration of Pakistan Independence day and Eid festival. In addition a number of other key projects have been initiated with remit in education, health and Information and Technology.

As I am typing this brief report, the Anti-terrorist Alliance from the free world is getting ready to launch a concerted war against terrorism. In contrast my effort seems irrelevant and insignificant. However, the developing situation is of particular interest to British Pakistani's in Huddersfield and throughout Britain. The State of Pakistan all of sudden has become a frontline State for the International community's 'war against terrorism'. The world's immediate target appears to be the Saudi dissenter Osama bin Laden and his host the Taliban Government of Afghanistan. Any military action will have severe repercussions for the internal and external stability and security of Pakistan and the entire region. Many British Pakistani's who have close links with Pakistan are naturally very concerned about the well being of their families and friends.

The British Muslims are also very worried about their safety and likely acts of reprisals. Some misguided elements are suggesting a convenient link between the recent atrocities in America and Islam. To them all Muslims are complicit to these horrific crimes against humanity. Inevitably, British Muslims see

themselves as an obvious target for anti-Muslim elements too eager to exploit the situation. Already, we are aware of attacks against Muslim persons and property in many other parts of the country.

The Prime Minister of Britain, Mr. Tony Blair MP, has quite rightly suggested that terrorists do not recognize and respect race, creed, culture or national distinctions. The recent atrocities against the Trade centre killed persons of almost every nationality and creed including Muslims.

**Continued on page 5**

### Management Committee Members 2000-2001

Shahida Awan - Chairperson

Mumtaz Ali - General Secretary

Mohammed Hanif Asad - Treasurer

Rukhsana Mahmud

Nemana Amjad

Asif Khan - co-opted

Azra Sharif

Musssarat Nazir (resigned due to health reasons)

Najema Renshaw - co-opted

Khalida Yasin

Jawaid Iqbal

Aleem Ahmed

Mohammed Rana Younas

Sharika Saeed

President's comment and Management Committee Members	1
Messages from well wishers	2
Chairperson, General Secretary and Treasurer's reports	3
The case study; in search of an opportunity	4
The Health Baseline Audit	5
P.C.A Work highlights	6 & 7
Vision	8

## Messages from well wishers

### **Councillor M Sokhal MBE JP**

#### **Mayor of Kirklees,**

*“I am pleased to offer both my congratulations and support to the Pakistani community Alliance for their continued work in taking forward the views and hopes of the Pakistani community in Huddersfield.*

*Their provision of education and advice for all ages is doing much to help community relations in the area, something which is always import but particularly so at the present time. It is also pleasing to see communities develop new ways of voicing their concerns and views, engaging with other organisations and bodies such as Kirklees Council. I look forward to hearing continued reports of the Alliance’s achievements”.*

### **Councillor Kath Pinnock**

#### **Leader of the Council,**

*“I am very pleased to confirm in writing my support and encouragement to the Pakistani Community Alliance for the project’s on-going success.*

*The more information the Council has on the diverse needs of all our communities, the more we can tailor our services to be more culturally specific.*

*The Community Alliance has done an excellent job in developing their contacts with the main service agencies, other organisations and the voluntary and business sector on behalf of the Pakistani Community and I am sure this success will develop over years to come. I am particularly looking forward to reading the Baseline Audit, currently being undertaken, which I feel will prove invaluable in identifying the more specific aspects of the Pakistani community’s needs”.*

### **Roger O’Doherty**

#### **Voluntary Action Kirklees**

*I am proud to be associated with the development of the Pakistani Community Alliance.*

*The Pakistani Community is a deprived community, short on resources and carrying a heavy burden of responsibility for impoverished communities overseas. It has developed vision, confidence and pride that enable it to work together with its neighbours in spite of increasing racism and Islamaphobia.*

*At VAK we firmly believe that the future development of this community will be led by Pakistani Organisations. The Alliance provides a vehicle for organisations and individuals to have their say in prioritising services to this community.*

*The alliance has been very successful in getting involved in local projects and attracting funding. Their new office in Thornton Lodge will enable them to establish projects under local control. I believe these projects like the Neighbourhood Learning Centre will develop into new independent organisations managed by local people.*

*Given the opportunities the Alliance now has to develop with its own office and staff and the availability of funding. The Pakistani Community can feel positive about its future in multicultural Kirklees.*

*VAK will always be here to help.*

## **Chairperson's report: Shahida Awan**

At our last Annual General meeting, the Alliance was beginning to get its act together. Over the last twelve months we have taken key steps to strengthen the organisation:

- The management committee of the Alliance have met on a regular basis.
- We have attempted to keep our members more informed and involved through information circulars and activities.
- In areas of education and health, we have commissioned two consultative studies which will provide 'bench mark' information on major areas of need, services and gaps.
- We are working closely with the Community Education Regeneration to develop a Neighbourhood Learning Centre for the residents in the Thornton Lodge area. Already the first year funding for this project has been acquired and soon we will be establishing a base in the area.
- We have collaborated with other organisations in order to initiate and support a number of projects which will help to improve services for the Pakistani community.
- We have established important links with key partnership bodies in areas of health, education, employment and voluntary sector.
- We have actively sought to involve young people in our activities, and have developed the idea of Pakistani Youth Council.
- We are also involved in developing a 'Leadership Training Programme' in order to nurture new, confident and skilled leadership for the Pakistani community.

The development of the Pakistani Community Alliance has surpassed my expectations. I am impressed by the level of support and encouragement we have received from all sections of the Pakistani community.

For our success, My heart felt thanks go to the Staff of Voluntary Action Kirklees, Huddersfield Pride, Kirklees Cultural Services and Kirklees Racial Equality Council. We have also received much encouragement from Mr. Lawrence Dodson and Shahid Molvi of Community Support Services. My thanks go to the Alliance Management committee and the membership for their unrelenting support and guidance.

Finally, my tribute goes to Ishtiaq Ahmed and Victor Gill for their innovative approach and persistence in developing the role and the work of the Alliance.

## **General Secretary's report: Mumtaz Ali**

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 Council has come from the young people themselves and already there is a much enthusiasm for developing and taking this idea forward.

The Alliance has successfully arranged the Eid and Pakistan Independence Day celebrations. Both events were held at Huddersfield Town Hall and were well attended by all sections of the community, particularly women and children. The Pakistan Independence Day attracted a massive audience of eleven hundred people who immensely enjoyed the evening. The event was one of the biggest in the region and has been shown twice on ARY—digital channel.

We also supported a cricket tournament in Huddersfield for teams from Huddersfield as well as from neighbouring towns. The competition was won by Huddersfield and we are planning to make this an annual event.

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

## **Treasurer's report: Mohammed Hanif Asad**

This year we have been able to secure funds for number of key initiatives for example:-

- Community Chest grant of £5900.00 for a health audit of religious and culturally sensitive services at Huddersfield hospitals.
- Kirklees Learning Partnership grant of £5000.00 to look into adult learning needs of Pakistani residents in the Thornton Lodge area.
- NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education), a grant of £50,000.00 for a neighbourhood learning centre for Thornton Lodge.
- Grant of £16,000.00 have been approved in principle by C.S.S to support the development of P.C.A.

## Case study of Victor Gill: in search of an opportunity

I arrived in Huddersfield three years ago from Pakistan with MA in Political Sciences and teaching experience of about ten years.

I came to join my partner with high hopes and expectations of life in Britain. I felt that for some one of my educational background and experience I will have no difficulty in securing a reasonable career. This was not to be so. In order to make ends meet, I ended up doing a number of odd jobs in textile, food chains and nursing homes.

It was while attending a course at Huddersfield Technical College that I came to know about the work of the Pakistan Community Alliance and Voluntary Action Kirklees. I telephoned to make an appointment with Ishtiaq Ahmed to discuss possibilities of working as a volunteer with P.C.A. After the interview, I felt that I could make a contribution to the development of the P.C.A and to the well being of the Pakistani community as well as acquiring skills and knowledge which could help me to develop a career in community work.

Working with the Pakistani Community Alliance has been a positive experience. It gave me an opportunity to learn about the work of Voluntary Action Kirklees and other agencies supported by V.A.K.

Working alongside Ishtiaq has enriched me with knowledge, skills and the ability to think positively. I also enjoyed the informal working environment at Voluntary Action Kirklees. All the staff members are committed, hard working with tremendous sense of humour. Very quickly I became part of a team; no longer do I feel an outsider.

I wanted to work with young people. PCA also wanted to reach out to and involve young people. I was given the responsibility of developing the idea of the Pakistani Youth Council. This gave me the opportunity to go out in order to make contact with young people. The response has been overwhelming.

We know have a hard core of Pakistani young people who are very keen to develop the notion of

Pakistani Youth Council, thereby giving young people an independent and powerful voice on matters and issues concerning them. It is hoped that the Pakistani Youth Council will help to nurture confident, responsible and skilful leadership amongst young Pakistani's.

I have had also opportunity to work on and develop the idea of the Chaanun Youth Theatre which seeks to engage and develop artistic interest and ability of young people. The theatre company has successfully performed four mini productions and is in the process of developing a major production to be staged in February.

Recently I have been successful in obtaining a part-time paid position with Huddersfield Pride- Groups for Growth and consultancy work with Connexions.

I believe my volunteer work with P.C.A and Voluntary Action Kirklees has paid off. I have taken the first step of developing a professional career which will bring into play my immense ability, interests and education. There are many others like me without help, support, guidance and encouragement who are being wasted.

Finally my sincere thanks goes to Ishtiaq, Baljinder, Roger, Val Johnson, members of the PCA Committee, Asif Khan of Cultural Services, Karen Coleman of Huddersfield Pride, CIDA and others who are part of the Youth Council and the Chaanun Youth Theatre Company.



## **PAKISTANI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE BASELINE AUDIT PROJECT INTRODUCTION**

A Baseline Audit has been instigated by the Pakistani Community Alliance the purpose of which is to ascertain what service provision exists in the field of health and social care for the Pakistani Community of Huddersfield.

In particular the audit will help determine current policy and practice in the following areas:

Halal Diet in Hospitals; Death & Bereavement Services; Translation and Interpretation Services; Service provision in the areas of Heart Disease and Diabetes; and Maternity Services.

According to the 1991 census there are some 8121 Pakistanis living in the Huddersfield area representing some 3.9% of the total Huddersfield Population. The actual numbers today are far greater and the 2001 census carried out recently will provide us with the true figures.

For some time it is known that the Pakistani community of Huddersfield are not receiving their fair share of services provided by the NHS and the Local Authority.

This project will test the above hypothesis.

The outcome of the Audit and Survey will do the following:

1. Inform the Pakistan Alliance, its members and in turn the Pakistani Community of what service provision exists in the key areas that concern the Pakistani Muslim Community of Huddersfield.
2. It will inform Service Providers a snap shot of the services provided from an independent source.
3. Identify gaps in service provision.
4. The results of the findings will help develop a more effective and sensitive service in the areas covered.
5. The use of rapid appraisal techniques will inform Senior Managers in helping to develop policies that are more relevant and appropriate to a diverse ethnic population of Huddersfield.

Senior members of staff from the public sector agencies working in the five key areas have completed a questionnaire. The findings and recommendations will be available in the near future.

## **Continued from page one**

British Muslims have thoroughly condemned the atrocious acts against the innocent civilians in the United State of America. Therefore, any act of retribution against a Muslim person or property will be most insensitive and unwarranted

I urge all residents of Huddersfield to exhibit restraint and tolerance. We must be vigilant and isolate any extremists, political or religious elements, which seek to spread their message of hate. We must commit ourselves to work for justice, peace and reconciliation not only here but wherever our influence takes us to. The Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance is uniquely placed to take this work forward in partnership with other agencies.

Humanity died in New York because of the actions of terrorists – evil people who lacked humanity. People of many nationalities and faiths lost their lives by the actions of some mad people. The associates of these culprits should be brought to justice and terrorism should be eradicated from the face of the earth. More importantly the international community needs to develop a sustained strategy to deal with all the root causes which help to perpetuate and nurture terrorism.

Role of the media is crucial – it should tell the truth and be responsible in defence of the liberty of all citizens without harassment. All fair-minded people need to work together to maintain good community relations.

Over the last year Ishtiaq Ahmed - the Pakistani Community Partnership Officer has well coordinated the work of the Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance and deserves over appreciation for his efforts.

I would like to congratulate Shahida Awan, Mumtaz Ali and Mohammad Haneef Asad and all the members of the Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance Management Committee and members for their sterling work over the last twelve months.

I am sure that the Pakistani community will engage more with the new Kirklees Local Strategic Partnership and play a positive role in the creation of a just society for all.

Dr Nasim Hasnie OBE  
President

Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance

## Some highlights of the work undertaken:

- Consolidation of PCA in terms of organisation, membership, resources and independence
- Neighbourhood Learning Centre-one year funding secured through NIACE, in partnership with Community Education & Regeneration.
- Community Health Audit- consultancy- already in progress.
- Adult Learning Needs of the Pakistan Community- research/audit in progress.
- Supported neighbourhood based projects and groups.
- Leadership training programme-in collaboration with African Caribbean Visioning Group, and Involving Communities team at H.P.
- Collaborated on the Eid festival
- Successfully arranged Pakistani Independence Day celebration
- Develop the idea of Pakistani Youth Council
- Supported the development of Chaanun Youth Theatre Company

## Development and support to other community organisations

- **Ahmadyia Muslim Association-** helped with the funding application, recruitment of the worker, and supporting the management Committee with its training needs.
- **Home Start-** helped with the funding application ,and recruitment process.
- **Arabian Association-** assisted with the amalgamation of two bodies. May require further work with funding.
- **South Asian Arts Forum-** supported various activities and programmes.
- **Paddock Community Consultation Forum** - supporting the involvement of ethnic minorities in Paddock Community
- **Islamic Education & Resources Centre** - providing development support.

## Partnership work with other agencies

- South Asian Strategic Health Partnership
- Black and Ethnic Minorities Health Forum
- Healthy Asian Healthy Living Partnership
- Community Support Services
- Huddersfield Pride - involving communities and Groups for Growth
- Voluntary Action Kirklees (V.A.K.)
- Creative Industry Development Agency (C.I.D.A)
- Kirklees Race Equality Council

## Widening of PCA membership and increasing the involvement of Youth

### **Chaanan Youth Theatre Company**

- Involvement of youth in creative activity
- Explores issues around youth identity
- Provide opportunities for other communities to learn about the Asian way of life
- To promote understanding peace and harmony
- To reduce isolation and break down barriers both within the Asian community and wider community

***Pakistani Youth Council - is a platform for young people giving a say in matters concerning them. The Youth Council is currently developing a strategy based on***

- Recruitment of volunteers
- Constitution
- Funding
- Training
- Mentoring
- Leadership skills

# **HUDDERSFIELD PAKISTANI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

## **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.

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