



Supporting communities,
enterprising minds and active citizens

ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2010 TO MAY 2011

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HIGHLIGHTS BY THE CHAIR

The success of ACCM (UK) this year has seen the its operations increase and expand and the current healthy state of the project is almost entirely due to the leadership of our Director, support and inspiration of her team of volunteers, Trustees, users, supporters and funders.

Key to 2010 and 2011 was the continuation of secured funding from Awards for All, UnLtd, ROSA, Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation that precipitated two new grants from Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales and The Bedford Charity. The grants supported our continuing programmes including “Happy and Health Citizens”, tackling illegal traditional practices and moving to new offices. The move to new offices enabled the Director and volunteers to plan, run and operate the project more effectively and strategically as they had a base to work from enabling clients to visit in confidence and gain information on support.

ACCM (UK) has expanded its previous work on tackling harmful traditional practices, the Director supported by volunteers and Trustees continued to build on the already established work started in Milton Keynes, Luton, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and expanding into Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. With our previous year’s success ACCM (UK) is now one of the UK successful Non Government Organisations (NGO).

We continue to listen and put our users and beneficiaries at the forefront of our work, we have established strong partnership and links with communities continue to gain their trust and that of their leaders. ACCM (UK) now has an established strong network and working in partnership with other organisations at local, regional national and international level. This is evident in our established overseas partners in Uganda and Kenya whom we have started to develop our work by starting to raise funding both in the UK and overseas.

Despite our success outlined above, our ambitions and aims have not been fully achieved due to or progressed as much as we had hoped as securing sustainable funding has proved more difficult this year. Although we identified sources of funding to develop our work on tackling health inequalities and working with children and young people where there is a great unmet need in Bedford and surrounding areas we have not been successful in securing new funding.

The current economic climate, opportunities have narrowed but we see clear potential for development into a Social Enterprise where we can bid for contracts to deliver some of the social services in the community as part of the Coalition Government’s policy of community delivering and managing own services.

The key barriers to our work and progress remain that of generating sustainable long term funding to recruit and pay staff including the Director, so the project can develop and successfully deliver and achieve our goals and aims. The current Government policy of deficit reduction is making funding for the voluntary and community sector difficult as Government Departments and Local Authorities who previously funded community groups have made cuts or reduced their funding making it difficult for ACCM (UK) to secure funding due to its infancy. While in the long term I am happy that our work and progress is in line with a number of policies that have emerged, there is a clear uncertainty as to how we will benefit from them. As Chair I will ensure that with the current three year funding support from Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales that the Board continues to be proactive and provide more support for staff and volunteers.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I would like to thank the Director, volunteers, users and supporters and most importantly our funders who have made it possible for the project to continue and being successful. I look forward to committing myself as Chair and serving ACCM (UK) for another successful and fulfilling following year.

Rimas Morris
ACCM (UK) Chair

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

A successful year

In 2010 to 2011 ACCM (UK) expanded its work outside Bedfordshire, Luton and Hertfordshire to Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire as our work became more known to communities and services providers and most importantly securing new sources of funding.

The continuation of ROSA, Bedfordshire & Luton Community Development Fund, and new grants from Awards for All and The Bedford Charity have enabled ACCM (UK) to grow and develop new areas of work in tackling health inequalities. These new grants also enabled us to recruit new volunteers in Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes who have made it possible for the project to achieve our aims of reaching out and supporting the increasing numbers of people seeking our support, help and running activities to benefit not just victims but professionals who work closely with victims.

It is an understatement if I said that I have spent the majority of 2010 and 2011 writing funding applications or talking to potential funders. This year has been difficult with regards raising funding as more and more organisations or charities become reliant on small pockets of funding sources due to Coalition Government's cuts to reduce deficit. As ACCM (UK) is a new organisation with only two years in operation we still have a long way to go to build our credibility and but we are operating in an area where there is a serious need and demand for our services. This only makes me more determined to continue delivering with the support of our committed volunteers and Trustees and that we will secure sustainable funding in the near future.

What I have achieved this year include and not exclusive:

- Moving to new offices
- Securing new funding from Awards for All, The Bedford Charity and a three year grant from Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales
- Successfully delivering and completing existing ROSA, Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation funded programmes.
- Became a part time paid Director after securing Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales grant. Continue working as a volunteer the rest of the week.
- Reviewed and developed sound governance
- Developed Project Policies
- Qualified as a First Aid for the first time
- Trained and updated my knowledge on Safeguarding Children and Adults
- Developed and established a Partnership with five other Bedford local groups to foster successful partnership to enable us to apply for tendering and delivery of local contracts. Currently drawing up Terms and Reference of the partnership with the help of Mid Bedfordshire Community and Voluntary Services.
- Successfully recruited new volunteer champions in Luton, Bedford and Milton Keynes who are now fully trained to deliver work locally
- Continued to deliver training and provide information to professionals and services providers
- Identified a Midwife from Northamptonshire Hospital who is willing to develop and run FGM Clinic
- Undertaken over 8 event activities in the community with the support of volunteers

- Continued to work closely with other organisations, individuals, groups and professionals who made it possible for me to achieve the successful delivery of the project this year. In particular:

Professionals and organisations:

- Craig Lister – Public Health Manager, NHS Bedfordshire, Bedford
- Naana Otoo-Oyortey – Executive Director, FORWARD, London
- Sarita Jain – Luton All Women’s Centre, Luton
- Bev Cross – Legal Advisor, Voluntary Action Sheffield, Sheffield
- TaxAssist Accountants in Bedford
- Cicely Palmer – Payroll, A Head for Figures, Bedford
- Claire Stewart - Project mentor UnLtd, London
- Sussie Achle – Manager and owner, Sutex Hair and Beauty Salon, Bedford who has agreed to join the Board of Trustees
- Alain Kibuika - Web designer
- Jane Owen – Mid Bedfordshire CVS
- Lila Begum – Queens Park Women’s Forum
- Queens Park Neighbourhood Centre
- David Brewer – Bedfordshire Borough Council
- Local MPs – Hon Richard Fuller

Key Volunteers

The project has powerful, committed and skilled volunteers who have supported its work since its inception in 2008. The Director is very grateful to all volunteers and supporters who have supported the project and helped it grow and develop. Special thanks go to Amina Ahmed from Sheffield, Kaltuma Ajab from Manchester, Lila Begum, Kate Chukwu and Marie O’Rourke from Bedford and many others too numerous to list but who played a very important role in ACCM (UK)’s work.

Most importantly the most important volunteers are the Trustees who have given up their valuable time and commitment despite their own demanding careers and schedules to be there to support the Director and meet their Trustee obligations.

Looking at the future

In 2011 to 2012, I look forward to continuing developing ACCM (UK) and making successful funding applications to secure sustainable long term funding. This will enable us to recruit paid staff who will help deliver and achieve our aims and goals. I hope that our partnership group that is currently in negotiation will be established with Terms of Reference and ready to tender or bid for contracts. I hope to continue building on our existing partnerships and develop new ones especially with communities and professionals in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire where we have yet to develop our work.

I look forward to developing our international links and partnerships that we have established by starting to generate funding so work can start empowering local communities in Uganda

and Kenya through our partners Rural Child Care Uganda (RUCCA) and Alton Maasai Project in Kenya. Our Trustee with links to Sudan has identified a community that we can start developing a link.

I am pleased to state that the project now has volunteers with the capacity and ability to operate at a senior level with the Director. This is very important towards the progress of the project no longer relies on one main staff or volunteer to manage the project. This enables the future and campaign to tackling health inequalities and illegal traditional practices firmly on the agenda until communities are healthy, safe and free from all forms of harm.

Sarah McCulloch
ACCM (UK) Director

THE PROJECT SO FAR

ACCM (UK) has continued working to build on the successful pilot schemes run in 2009 to 2010 based on research and talks held with users, communities and service providers. Some of the important feedback came from the NHS Free Health Check pilot contract that we coordinated for the Horizon Health Commissioning and the NHS Bedfordshire. Our research and pilot work through Happy and Healthy Citizens that started in 2009 continued to 2011 and has enabled ACCM (UK) to make valuable contacts, engage and run activities and events within communities. Through Health and Happy Citizens programmes and the NHS Health Check programme, ACCM (UK) continued to develop strong links and partnerships with services providers, commissioners, and other statutory agencies through continued work, providing information and training. There have been some changes and improvements in services provision especially in Queens Park where our work with Queens Park Neighbourhood Centre has seen an increase in young parents using its services. ACCM (UK) continues to develop its FGM UK wide campaign, training and linking in with Europe especially at Government level to ensure that these practices are still on Government agenda.

Office premises:

A secured home for the future

Funding from ROSA enabled us to move to new offices in June 2010 and it has been the best move this year for the project as it now has a base to operate from. This move enabled us to recruit two new volunteers and make proper use of existing volunteers, which was previously impossible when the director was working from home. The project has fully made use of training and meeting rooms as some areas are free to tenants or available at a discounted cost. Majority of other tenants are charities who have made use of or referred clients to our services. We attend each others events where we exchange and promote our services.

The important thing about the office premises is its location in Cauldwell, which is one of the most deprived Wards in Bedford and communities who reside in this ward are our target for our work. Also the premises will have a conference centre, kitchen, public WiFi and IT Cafe, sports room, crèche with free parking. These will be important for the project as we run activities for the community and self-contained premises is crucial to enable us to attract hard to reach communities to enjoy and use facilities or services under one roof.

This is an appropriate office place all the other tenants are Charities that will benefit ACCM (UK)'s clients such as Sight Concern and the King's Arms work with families and young people.

The move will enable ACCM (UK) to have an appropriate place for volunteers to operate from, as in the previous year they met at various venues which made it difficult to develop team rapport and trust in each other.

ACTIVITIES

Happy and Healthy Citizens

Working with people to improve the health of the community

Activities undertaken

FGM and Forced Marriage Training

- Undertaken 15 training sessions for professionals in Bedfordshire, Luton and around the UK
- Organised and ran 2 seven programme sessions for women in Queens Park and one Cauldwell on Safeguarding Children policies and how illegal harmful traditional practices are seen as Child Abuse, Human Rights Violation and what the law says about these practices. Between 20 to 25 women attended each session. There was a celebration at the end of each session with certificates awarded.
- Supported and advised Milton Keynes, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils in drafting their FGM Protocols, supported the launches with training sessions for professionals. In Milton Keynes we had a Head Teacher attending which was very important as he declared that he will ensure teachers in Milton Keynes were up to date with FGM issues.
- The BME Domestic Violence Forum set up in 2009 continues to have meetings although it is clearly becoming a talking shop instead of an action and hands on Forum. There was however some activity when the Bedfordshire DV Team took to the road IN Bedfordshire in November 2010 promoting end violence against women and illegal traditional practices information was handed out.
- Continued to support young women from a Bristol Academy to promote their FGM Documentary called WHY? When the Director spoke on BBC Radio 2 – Woman’s Hour to respond to the DVD on 25th September 2010. After the participation ACCM (UK) received over 30 calls and emails from people concerned about the practice or wanting advice and support, information or just to say how important the work we were to protect girls and women. The young women went on to produce another successful DVD – Silent Scream which was launched on in June 2011.
- The Hertfordshire Police Trainers continue to provide advice and support to fellow colleagues and running activities in the community in collaboration with Violence Against Women groups. A conference is planned for early 2012.
- Working closely with 4 women groups in Bedford and Luton All Women’s Centre with regards forced marriage. Linked with the Luton Police Officer Team and Adams Moore Law firm to provide training and information to professionals in Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire. Have approached the lead legal advisor at Adams Moore Legal firm to enlist her to help provide FGM legal advice.
- Although we continue to support local young peoples groups this year it has been very disappointing as we have had no funds to contribute to their activities as we have previously done. We hope to apply for funding from the BBC Children In Need Appeal to in the next financial year to undertake work with young people. The aim to ensure they have information to help them make informed decisions about their health, safety and wellbeing.
- Established excellent working relationship with two Sure Start / Children’s Centre’s in Bedford who are acting as referral centres to help provide support to mothers and their

children especially with issues relating to their education or schools. We referred over 15 women for support by Sure Start/Children's Centres on parenting issues.

- We have run Positive Parenting, Health and Wellbeing Programmes as a way to provide information on forced arranged marriages and honour based violence in particular issues on Safeguarding Children. 86 women attended this year. 11 from this group have sought help and information about their domestic setting with one moving temporarily into a refuge.
- We are hoping to recruit a male volunteer to help support our new work with men in 2012 to 2013.
- Responded to 5 requests to provide training to organisations and groups from around the UK, including two in Scotland and one in Birmingham and Cardiff. Continued to provide information, support or advice through email or by telephone. Over 150 people attended the Edinburgh event on FGM.
- Responded to 9 cases of asylum applications on grounds of fear of their children or the young women from being subjected to FGM if returned to their country of origin. Only two have been successful as the Coalition Government's policy on asylum is now stricter.
- In partnership with Bedfordshire Women's Forum, ACCM (UK) organised a conference in Bedford to raise awareness on all forms violence against women and other issues that impact on women. Speakers included ACCM (UK)'s Director, Fawcett Society, Amnesty International and the Bedford Borough Council. The conference was opened by the Mayor of Bedford. Over 100 people attended.
- Two conferences were held in Milton Keynes by Safeguarding Children Team and ACCM (UK) was the main presenter supported by lawyers and the Police. Over 50 professionals from Milton Keynes attended each event.
- In January 2011, ACCM (UK) took part in the launch of a DVD "For Honour and Love" produced by the Kurdish and Middle Eastern Refugee Womens Organisation in Luton. Over 80 people attended the launch and an article appeared in the Luton Newspapers on Wednesday 26th January 2011. See attached copy.
- ACCM (UK) has established strong links with Luton Women's Aid (LWA) to undertake joint work with migrant women in Luton. LWA have dedicated staff to be trained by ACCM (UK) to take on the role of trainers and campaigners to tackle harmful traditional practices in Luton. This is important as LWA have the resources and a centre where these women seek help and support and ACCM (UK) can also tap into this resource.
- Luton Red Cross took over the management of the New Migration Partnership Forum which is made up of organisations including the Police, Council, Refugee Council, Church, that support migrant and refugee communities in Luton. ACCM (UK) has given talks to Forum members and now works closely with majority of them to support victims of abuse, or writing support letters for those seeking leave to remain or access to services. Luton has a large migrant and refugee community with increasing concerns about the extremist Islamic young men.
- Joined Luton Police and the Mayor of Luton in helping to celebrate the merging of many warring groups of the Somali Community in Luton to form one Somali Community Forum in a celebration that took place in September 2010. In February 2011 ACCM (UK) was invited to a meeting in Luton to support the Forum in developing strong membership, drawing up of Terms of Reference, how to seek funding to run own activities for the benefit of all the community especially children and women.
- Successfully challenged a Scottish Council who had removed a child from her family on grounds of at risk of FGM but could not give appropriate reasons for her removal or why she was at risk from FGM.

Contribution to national and international Anti FGM activity

Cross Government FGM Coordinator

The Cross Government FGM Coordinator based at the Home Office continues to coordinate the Cross Government Team and FGM Forum made up of various groups and individuals with an interest in FGM.

The FGM website is live at – www.fco.gov.uk/fgm and has recent Government reviews and updates on the campaign.

FGM has recently been an item of debate in the Houses of Parliaments with concerns raised about the continuation of the practice in the UK, the effectiveness of the law and Safeguarding Teams to tackling the practice. The Ministry of Education has issues a consultation on how the Safeguarding Children issues should be tackling with deadline in November 2011.

ACCM (UK) has had strong support from our local Bedford and Kempston MP Richard Fuller, who has written to the Home Secretary about the issue of FGM.

Bristol Young Women's Group

After successfully producing a Radio Project on FGM called – WHY? the group were invited to promote the Documentary on BBC Radio 4, Women's Hour on 24th September 2010. The Documentary was played, a Bristol Police Officer and ACCM (UK)'s Director were invited to respond. This was a successful debate that made the officer change his response to how he responded to FGM claims in Bristol.

The group went on to secure Awards for All funding to produce a DVD called Silent Scream which was launched on 30th June 2011 in Bristol. This DVD did cause a lot of problems for the group as some members of the community became angry about the project and wanted it stopped only for the Police to intervene and enable to group to complete and launch their DVD. This has been very successful and it is now being used in schools and by other young people.

The documentary has been completed and to receive a CD please contact Integrate Bristol. www.integratebristol.org.uk. Tel: 0773 8051713

EURONET – FGM, based in Brussels

ACCM (UK) is a member of the European Network for the Prevention and Eradication of Harmful Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children, in particular Female Genital Mutilation (EURONET-FGM) has enabled me to promote my new organisation in Europe and internationally. The Director attended the first meeting and

conference in April 2009 held in Brussels. One of ACCM (UK)'s Trustees was the Vice President of EURONET-FGM. EURONET.FGM is a membership not for profit organisation that campaigns to eliminate FGM in all its forms, influences European Union and works internationally through its members.

PARENTING, HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

After the success of coordinating the NHS Health Checks, that enabled ACCM (UK) to establish links with local community groups and individuals, we have continued to run health and wellbeing events and providing information to local Bedford communities on health and wellbeing.

Our securing a new grant from The Bedford Charity enabled us to continue to tackle illegal traditional practices (forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation), improve the welfare and safety of those at risk or victims of these practices in Bedford. As the issues are complex and sensitive we have undertaken events through running Parenting, Health and Wellbeing activities with emphasis on Safeguarding Children and Adults.

In January 2011, ACCM (UK) recruited a project worker and two interpreter volunteers to increase the project's capacity to deliver the Parenting, Health and Wellbeing sessions.

All programmes delivered were drawn up in agreement with the beneficiaries and their group leaders, as our work is client centred to meet the needs and concerns of the community.

We ran three Parenting and Wellbeing programmes, which were made up of 10 sessions each with 86 women attending. Two of the sessions included healthy eating, nutrition planning with hands on cooking session. The cookery session involved showing the participants how to prepare a healthy meal without using salt and oil. Majority were not convinced that the food will be tasty as they were used to using a lot of salt and cooking with ghee or palm oil that is rich in fat. Results were amazing as were very pleased with the result. All said they will reduce salt or change their cooking oil. 6 months later feedback was that half of the participants have cut down on use of salt and were using olive oil for cooking. Some said '...their husbands or mothers-in-law have not noticed the difference!'

Organised keep fit, build confidence and have fun karate exercises for 21 children of parents who attended the parenting, health and well being sessions. Scratch 6 mothers joined in with their children. This was a fantastic event as two of these mothers are in abusive relationships and the Karate session helped boost their confidence and self defence. Lessons ran during Easter holidays in 2011. Feedback was that 5 children have taken up karate, all said they felt confident and will stand up to their bullies in the future, one of the mother stated that she will no longer accept the condition she was being subjected to at home. Funding permitting we would like to run more Karate session in the future as more children and young people have requested them.

As demand for our Parenting, Health and Wellbeing sessions in Bedford increase we look forward to developing our work closely with our partners including the NHS Bedfordshire who have requested us to run some programmes for them.

Of the 86 women who attended our sessions:

- over half had a relative or two who had diabetes
- 20% had the problems themselves
- a third had high blood pressure and more had a family member with high blood pressure and more than half know a person with mental health or depression.
- Discussion with a shopkeeper told ACCM (UK) that four of his relatives had diabetes and that he is worried he may get it too.

There was concern about many of the participants about their lack of knowledge of English. They agreed that they wanted to do ESOL lessons to improve their language skills, as some were keen of gaining employment or supporting their children. Some were concerned that they were not communicating with their children properly as they did not understand English nor were they participating in children's education due to language barriers. ACCM (UK) has had talks to WEA to help provide ESOL sessions for the women.

Positive community action resulting from the project

On average 18 to 22 women attended each session held on Thursdays. This is was a very excellent turn out considering that women from Asian background hardly attend such sessions for long, as they are rarely active outside the home. As four of the ladies said individually to the volunteers and director who ran the session 'this is the only way I can go out and meet or talk to someone.' One went further by saying 'hope you will do more especially English, I want to speak to other people and go to the shops'.

Many felt uncomfortable talking about forced arranged marriages, as they were victims of the practice. There was also a lot of confusion or little knowledge about the difference between an arranged marriage and a forced arranged. When it was mentioned why there was a Civil Law 2007 against FAM feedback was in agreement that no one should be forced into a marriage even if parents agreed, as is the norm. As one mother said 'I will not do this to my two daughters'.

The issue of honour based violence and domestic violence were subjects that were most difficult to discuss. The Support Worker Volunteer, who used to run FREEDOM sessions for domestic abuse victims managed to get the subject discussed sensitively. The other speaker from Queens Park Neighbourhood Centre, who works with families, was also able to talk about this subject sensitively. The women became more comfortable to discuss the subject. This resulted in four women coming forward after the discussions to seek advice and support.

A treat to visit the House of Parliament for those who successfully completed sessions and awarded Certificates by the Grant Manager from The Bedford Charity was planned for 2nd June 2011.



Some participants attending the session



Bedfordshire Fire Brigade staff talking about Health and Safety in the home



Certificate Awards by Lucy Bardner (left), Grant Manager, The Bedford Charity with ACCM (UK) Director in white top looking on.



An area of weakness needed further investigation

Lack of funding meant that we did not meet requested areas of need or provided relevant information as required. More requests were made for further sessions on Child Protection, nutrition and information on preventing or dealing with diabetes. Many young parents want support due to Benefits changes to enable them to secure employment or learn a skill but can not do so as ACCM (UK) has no extra funds for this. There has also been an increase in young women seeking help and information on domestic violence and we would like to do more as we have an experienced volunteer in counselling and supporting such women but she has no funds to secure venue or cover her costs.

FREE NHS HEALTH CHECK

This programme was successful run in 2009/2010 and have been informed by NHS Bedfordshire and that it will be continued in the near future as funding has been secured for a three year programme of more health checks. The new programme will target more hard to reach communities not just through checks but through more health and wellbeing programmes to help reduce diabetes, cholesterol, high blood pressure and heart disease that is prevalent amongst migrant communities.

We have recently been approached by NHS Public Health to provide some action plan as what we could deliver to grassroots and how.

GOVERNMENT MENTORING PROGRAMME – IN THE DAY OF

ACCM (UK) was selected to be part of the new Government Mentoring Programme between the Voluntary Sector and Senior Government Officials. The programme involved a Government Official visiting a Charity and spending a day with the Charity manager or director or chief executive. In turn the Charity worker visited the Government Official and spent time with them for the day. It was called in the Day Of. ACCM (UK) was partnered with Dr Gisela Davis from Department of Environment, Food and Rural Areas (DEFRA) and the exchanges took place in September 2010.

In the day of the ACCM (UK)'s Director, Dr Davis spent the morning at the office talking to the Director and meeting some of the Volunteers. In the afternoon she attended an event for Asian women in Queens Park where she heard about their lives, concerns and requests for support and help to access services. They made a request for space, such as a centre or office, to enable them to run their own activities and events without having to beg other organisations for help as they did not have any funding.

Most importantly, the women were inspired by this visit from a Senior Government female official, as they have never met a Government Official before. They asked questions about how the Government operated, what she does and how she influences Government policy. This visit inspired women to want to visit **Other funded programmes**

the Houses of Parliament to learn more and see where the Government and most importantly the House of Lords where the Queen sits.



Dr Gisela Davis talking to women in Queens Park

We secured a grant of £5,000 from Cover Digital was unique as it enabled us to help out in the new Digital Television Switchover which enables ACCM (UK) to reach out to more communities using other means. This work involved running workshops, distributing information and signposting those in need of further information on the new Digital television Switchover in Bedford. In particular supporting elderly members of migrant communities with information on the Digital Switch enlisted their Trust that we are an organisation that is there to support them at all levels on every issues of concern or interest.

Partnership Working

ACCM (UK) continues to work closely with established partnerships and have developed news ones including but not exclusive:

- Luton All Women's Centre (LAWC) to provide training, information and support to these young women and their families.
- Santoshi Asian Women's Group
- 3 Bangladeshi Women's group
- Santoshi Asian Women's Refuge
- Bedfordshire Racial Equality Council
- Bedford Community and Voluntary Services
- Ashiana Women's Group - Sheffield
- Middle East Women's Group
- Bedfordshire and Luton Police
- Milton Keynes Children's Centres
- Queens Park Women's Forum
- Queen's Park Neighbourhood Centre that runs parent and women's groups
- Bedford Borough Council – including Domestic Violence Team
- Independent Domestic Violence Group, Bedford
- Luton Multi Agency Forum now called New Migration Partnership (NMP) is an agency based in Luton but covering the whole of Bedfordshire, made up of professionals and voluntary groups who provide support services for asylum seekers, refugees and new migrants in the region.

ACCM (UK) is currently establishing formal partnership with six other local Bedford groups to form a legal Social Enterprise Partnership to enable us to secure funding to run and manage local social services. We will be meeting in the year 2012 to agree on Terms and Conditions of the partnership.

International Links:

ACCM (UK) has developing formal international links to help develop work in African countries where beneficiaries living in Bedfordshire, Luton and around the UK originally come from. So far links have been established with Rural Child Care Uganda (RACCAU) based in Eastern Uganda and Alton Maasai Project in Kenya. The Memorandum of Agreement between RACCAU and ACCM (UK) was has been approved by Trustees in July 2011. The objective is that if we can empower people in the UK with information, they will help develop their own relatives or families back in Uganda or Kenya. For example, people in the UK may help raise funding or collect items that can be sent to help communities who otherwise have nothing.

ACCM (UK) is currently looking at International funding sources such as Comic Relief, Big Lottery and DFID to secure some funding to help the links partners start some work.

We are currently developing new links in Sudan with a group that is developing work around girls and women's issues especially in education and health. By end of 2012 we will have established a clear mandate with Sudan to start working in partnership.

Limits imposed by resources

This year has seen the project not achieving its aims and objects due to limited funds and resources. The organisation undertook a lot of work locally in Bedford and Milton Keynes with grassroots communities but limited itself to providing information and telephone or email advice and support to other areas. However we were able to do more with professionals and other agencies as they paid fees for training and activities run. This year so limited work with children and young people and men or their organisations due to limited resources. Although we recruited more new volunteers we would have liked the volunteers to do more but could not afford volunteer expenses to enable them to travel and to work in the communities they serve.

Due to economic downturn with more and more charities going for the same pots of funding there is strong competition and our newly established status has been working against us as we don't have established credentials. However we are overcoming this as we are targeting hard to reach communities and our aims are those that concern Local, Central Government, and communities themselves, hence the new three year funding from Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales. The Trustees and the Director are looking to secure new funding through contracting or tendering and this is important to achieve our Social Enterprise status. The project has enlisted the help of Bedfordshire Community and Voluntary Services staff for funding application support and advice and this should give us an edge to securing new funding.

SUMMARY

The success of ACCM (UK) in the last year will not have been possible without our funders and supporters especially Awards for All, ROSA, The Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation and The Bedford Charity. The new grants enabled us to recruit three new volunteers, secure our new home for the project and enabled volunteers and the Director to operate more effectively and efficiently. This has also benefited our beneficiaries who have a safe place to visit to meet staff and volunteers. The new three years funding from Lloyds TSB Foundation has been very much welcome and a big relief to the project as this fund will continue to pay for office rent and rates and also help pay the Director's salary for two days a week.

The Awards for All grant and Bedford Charity grants enabled us to continue undertaking work with local Bedfordshire communities on Parenting, Health and Wellbeing events to raise issues relating to illegal traditional practices. The success of these events lead to securing further funding from Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales to continue tackling illegal harmful traditional practices not just in Bedfordshire but also in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, Luton and Northamptonshire.

Building confidence in parenting as many parents say they are now able to speak to their children's teachers, attend parenting evenings, or tackle any problems with their children through improved communication and listening skills they learnt from the sessions.

Many have said how they are now able to prepare family meals without using fatty oil, have reduced use of sugar and salt, and still enjoy the food and drink. Only claimed that her male partner was not keen on reduced salt food but she is being supported by other to keep going until his taste buds get used. There has already been a dramatic shift in how the women who have attended the earlier sessions say they are preparing their meals. They said they no longer use ghee, butter, have reduced the amount of salt and sugar they use. The important thing is that some mothers – in – law or the partners have not noticed the change which is important. Want more sessions on 5 A Day and Nutrition.

Many of the women lived in isolation but now have made friends and are attending more activities than they did before. Many now have new problems due to social benefit cuts as they now have to get paid work, as their children are older or at school. For many who can not speak English or have no skills on how to seek paid employment including how to apply or complete job applications are finding the whole process very depressing. At least ACCM (UK) has over 15 young women, some of whom have never been allowed to go out on their own nor been into Bedford on their own, crying out for help and support especially with learning of English and building their confidence to able to walk into town on their own should they get a job. ACCM (UK)'s funding position does not allow it to run such schemes will require new funding. We may have talks with current funders including Awards for All to see if we can secure new funding to continue supporting and helping these women.

Of those who were supported due to problems with domestic violence, 8 women and 4 men have moved away from their violence relationships but continue to get support. Three of the women are now in new homes. Majority have decided to stay but confidence building and support continue to be provided by our partners Queen's Park Neighbourhood Centre that has family support.

Two of the women were single parents and were facing harassment from the community that does not accept single parenting. Single parents amongst Asian communities is often seen unacceptable and dishonour the community. The women are under going counselling, confidence building including learning Karate to build their strength to stand up to the bullies.

The Luton Somali Community Forum is growing stronger as more people join to participation activities and decision making to improve their own community. ACCM (UK) is helping to train two women champions to help with interpreting, giving information and signposting people in need to relevant services.

ACCM (UK) through its partnership working is leading to set up a consortium for small charities in Bedford to work closely together, help bid for funding to deliver social services and to be prepared for the Government's Big Society. So far 5 small charities are interested to join and we will meet in May to negotiate and agree on Terms of Reference.

The Awards for All grant was so important in enabling us to achieve our aim as the Volunteers recruited were able to train and undertake the work. They are still committed to the project and hope to continue for another year. One of them will be joining university this September but she hopes to return during holidays to continue with the volunteering.

Finally, ACCM (UK) continues to develop and grow stronger with the committed and passion from Trustees, volunteers with very strong support from users, beneficiaries, and communities we work with. This would not be possible without the support of our funders past and present.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Getting involved in the Government's A Day in .. in which ACCM (UK)'s Director was paired with Dr G. Davis from DEFRA. This was a very successful event.
- Visit from local Mayor and MPs who have taken up interest in our work
- Increasing request for training and providing information from professionals and agencies around the region and UK wide ensuring that we continue to provide the high quality of training and support.
- Establishing good work relationship with communities in Luton, Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes that involved recruiting new community champions from grassroots communities.
- Successfully running Parenting, Health and Wellbeing sessions in Bedford and Milton Keynes with emphasis on giving information on illegal traditional practices.
- Continued to support young women in Bristol to produce a Radio FGM Documentary called WHY? and a DVD called Silent Scream to be launched at the end of June 2011.
- Attending over 17 meetings in the UK on FGM
- Training 2 new professional Training Trainers and 3 Community Champions
- Attending the formation and launch of the Luton Somali Forum
- Successfully supporting one asylum cases to gain leave to remain in the UK
- Started to receive contacts from young Asian women seeking help, information and advice on domestic violence and other forms of abuse.
- Establishing important links with Queens Park Neighbourhood Centre as a referral and support centre for women with a need with parenting or abuse.

FINANCES AND GRANTS

Summary of financial activity

The grants from new Awards For All, ROSA, Cover Digital, The Bedford Charity and Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales awarded from 2010 to 2011 have enabled the project to build on the successful pilots and other work it undertaken in the year from 2009 to May 2010. We were able to achieve one important aim, that of moving to offices that have enabled ACCM (UK) to progress and provide a professional outlook into its work with professionals and the community.

We secured a grant of £5,000 from Cover Digital was unique as it enabled us to help out in the new Digital Television Switchover which enables ACCM (UK) to reach out to more communities using other means. In particular supporting elderly members of migrant communities with information on the Digital Switch enlisted their Trust that we are an organisation that is there to support them at all levels on every issues of concern or interest.

Forward planning

After another successful year, the project is now building up credibility, establishing serious partners and is now seriously looking for long term funding to develop even further ambitious programmes to meet our aims and objectives. We will be looking at raising funding from Reaching Communities' Grant from the Big Lottery, tendering for contracts to deliver local social and health services and other funding Trusts. We still hope that the Coalition Government's Big Society Policy will go ahead and will benefit our grassroots work.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTANTS

Prudent use of funding

Most of our grants for the year were restricted funding for specific activities or items and were used for the purpose they were awarded. Other income was generated from charging fees for training or providing information for professionals especially Safeguarding Team's training and the Director being guest speaker at various events around the UK. These small amounts of unrestricted funds helped cover the costs of running other project activities including covering volunteer costs.

Financial structures

The Director managed day to day financial accounting of the grants, monitored and supervised by the Chair and Treasure with the support of the Secretary. Our Accountants have been monitoring the management of the accounts to ensure that they are properly recorded for Charity Commission and Company House accounting purposes.

A Head For Figures Company based in Bedford manages our payroll.

The Trustees voted to establish a local Bedford TaxAssit Accountants as our new Accountants from 2010. Egemole & Co Accountants based in Sheffield were thanked for their help and support they had provided so far and their services were very much appreciated.

FUTURE PLANS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Hopes and aspirations

1. We will continue fund raising until we have satisfactory funds to undertake our work to meet our aims and goals. Our long term aim is to have a health and well being centre providing support and services to BME and vulnerable communities and anyone who needs help in Bedfordshire and beyond. In particular, we want to provide somewhere safe for girls and women to seek help, talk to someone in confidence and gain valuable information.
2. We will continue to undertake provide training, information, keep up the campaign in the UK on tackling harmful traditional practices until young people and women are safe and free from harm. We have enlisted the help of The Bedford Charity and Safeguarding Children and Young People's Team to help us engage with schools in the year 2012.
3. Apply for a grant form BBC Children in Need to help us develop and run summer activities, in particular out door activities, and trips for children and young people who do not have the opportunity to go on holidays
4. Continue running parenting, health and well being events to tackle health, social and economic inequalities. ACCM (UK) believes that communities or individuals who are healthy or have information to make health decisions will improve their social and economic status as they seek training or employment whether through volunteering or paid work. We want to reduce the number of people in an Asian household with diabetes from four to two by end 2013.
5. Continue lobbying government and local authorities to improve facilities and services for victims of harmful traditional practices and all form of violence so victims can live a health, safe and economically active fulfilling lives.
6. Build on existing and creating new partnership for better working to improve the position of those who are most vulnerable in the community especially girls and women.
7. Ensure that more community champions are trained and equipped to continue working with their communities.
8. Seek funding to start work with men, recruit volunteers men in Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire.
9. Developed our partnership links with the six groups and ready to tender or contract work locally.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PHOTO LIBRARY

Any accompanying photos were taken with permission of those involved.



Sarah McCulloch (second from left) with Bedfordshire Women's Forum Board members



Sarah (red top centre) with Mayor of Bedford (far left), Heather Mills from Amnesty International and Rubina Malik from Bedfordshire Women's Forum

Some photos of Women in Queen's Park attending a Parenting, Health and Wellbeing Event February to March 2011 and Certificate Award by Lucy Bardner – Grant Manager, The Bedford Charity.



Some of the ladies listening to Sarah (left) From ACCM (UK)



Bedfordshire Fire Brigade staff talking about Health and Safety in the home



Certificate Awards by Lucy Bardner (left), Grant Manager, The Bedford Charity



A Life in the Day of ACCM (UK) Director - 29th September 2010



Dr Gisela Davis from DEFRA (far right with cup) meeting and talking to women in Queens Park Bedford. ACCM (UK)'s Director is white top



Participants waiting to meet Dr Davis.

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR JUNE 2010 TO MAY 2011

ACCM (UK)

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st May 2011

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2011	Total Funds 2010
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects					
Grant Receivable	1	7212	20500	27712	12870
Fees and Bank Interest					13125
Total Incoming Resources		<u>7212</u>	<u>20500</u>	<u>27712</u>	<u>25995</u>
Resources					
Expanded:					
Cost of activities in furtherance Of Charities objects					
Direct Charitable Expenditure		152	442	594	1652
Management & Administration					
Office Rent and Services		796	5543	6588	1102
Salaries		4349	1221	5570	11820
Training			478	478	614
Accountancy		306		306	300
Accountancy			800	800	176
Travel & Subsistence		389	1158	1547	2447
Other Administrative		1151	2930	3832	3649
Total Resources Expended		<u>7143</u>	<u>12572</u>	<u>19715</u>	<u>21760</u>
Net (Expenditure)/Income					
For the Year		69	7928	7997	9319
Total Funds at 1st June 2010		1555	7764	9319	
Total Funds 31st May 2011		<u>1624</u>	<u>15692</u>	<u>17316</u>	

Funded and supported by:



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