

PREVENTING RACIST VIOLENCE

Background

This initiative has been developed in response to a report by the Runnymede Trust *Preventing Racist Violence, Work with Actual and Potential Perpetrators - Learning from Practice to Policy Change (October 2005)* which was jointly funded by City Parochial Foundation (CPF). It suggested that work to challenge racist attitudes and reduce the incidents of racial violence is scarce given the scale of the problem. It also noted that much of this work is either labelled 'crime reduction' or 'social cohesion' with little connection between the two. This is a missed opportunity as there is a need for policy makers, government agencies and practitioners to work more effectively at local, regional and national level. We believe that the community and voluntary sector has the potential to develop effective and creative ways of pulling these various initiatives together for maximum impact.

Aim

To develop and/or strengthen preventive work with potential perpetrators to help reduce the fear and level of racial incidents and race hate crime in specific geographical areas in London.

Objectives

- To change the attitudes and behaviour of potential perpetrators of racist violence.
- To work with the wider community to change racist attitudes that have an influence on the attitudes and behaviour of the potential perpetrators.
- To evaluate the merits of the different approaches to this work.
- To share and learn from the work, and to influence other agencies including voluntary and community organisations, youth groups, other funders, local authorities, statutory agencies and government.

Timescale: Grants agreed March 2007. Funded work April 2007 – March 2010.

Amount allocated: £400,000.

Organisations Funded

1. **Working with Men** (www.workingwithmen.org) – £122,000 to work in the Thamesmead area with young men and their communities including conflict resolution, group work and community safety projects.
2. **Leap Confronting Conflict** (www.leaplinx.com) – £120,000 to work in three London areas on a community based group work and training programme for young white men.
3. **Searchlight Educational Trust** - £95,000 for an Anti-Racist Intervention Project in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham with a strong sport component.

Special Initiative: Preventing Racist Violence

Evaluation

An external evaluation is being undertaken by Sarah Isal and Robin Oakley of the Runnymede Trust. The evaluation was commissioned in October 2007 and will be completed in January 2010. An interim report will be produced in November 2008.

An evaluation framework is available, with anticipated outcomes.

Advisory Group members

The Venerable Peter Delaney and Maggie Baxter (CPF Grants Committee)

Theo Gavrielides (Race on the Agenda)

Bharat Mehta (CPF Chief Executive)

Representatives of the four funded projects

CPF Lead Officer: Sioned Churchill, supported by Helal Abbas Uddin.

Learning to date:

- The process of selecting young people to work with is in itself a difficult process. What criteria are used for selection? How is this communicated? There is a need to be careful about stigmatising individuals as racists.
- There is some sensitivity in local agencies about discussing racism and prejudice, and therefore this issue is not a high priority for them.
- Lack of male role models.