

MUSLIM PARENTS ASSOCIATION - HIGH WYCOMBE

Chairman: Cllr Rafiq Raja, 34 Perth Road, High Wycombe Bucks, HP13 6XX. Tel: (01494) 525136
Secretary: Mrs Rashida Kazi, 156 Hughenden Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel: (01494) 447262
Vice Chairman: Chaudhry Mohammed Shafique, Treasurer: Haji Mohammed Abdullah

Minutes of the meeting held at BCUC on 18 December 2006, between the MPA and BCC – Education Department.

Present: Rafiq Raja, Rashida Kazi, Louise Goll (*Divisional Director for Achievement & Learning*), Yvette Thomas (County Diversity Adviser), Kalil Ahmed Khan, Zahid Jawed, Amjad Iqbal, Asmat Mohammed

1. Introductions and welcomes
2. Apologies from Chaudhry Shafique, Mohammed Rafiq, Dr Katy Simmons, John Bajina, Cllr Glyn Galbraith and Suma Din from core group.
3. Rafiq thanked Louise and Education department for their engagement with the MPA and hoped we could all work together.

Louise hoped focus groups would challenge schools.

The main areas that should be addressed are gap in achievement, parental involvement and sharing of good practice (RR)

Perception of 40% differential in achievement gap for Pakistani pupils should in fact be only about 20% for 5 A*-C at GCSE (LG)

Did this include GNVQ results as equivalent to A*-C GCSE? (RK)

This was confirmed (LG)

During the 'anti terrorist raids' in the summer there was no presence of education in local meetings (ZJ). This happened in August in school holidays and guidance was in place when schools opened (YT).

LG went over document 'Joint Area Review'. There had been a robust and accurate self evaluation. Report shows EM pupils had not achieved as well as other groups. Most services judged to be good (page 10). Score of 2 was due to health services. About 20% of pupils in secondary schools are EM.

Need to look closer at specific groups and schools such as Cressex School with 85% EM (RK)

There was some concern about targeting pupils in schools with very low BME numbers (P.23). Report showed four groups causing greatest concern. Most post 16 young people in employment, education or training (P29). No time scale but action plan to be submitted, OFSTED will expect to see progress in next report in 3 years.

Is there targeted input into areas with low socio economic levels where pupils fall behind? (RK)

A lot of funding these areas (LG).

Despite low overall figures for exclusions these remained high for BME groups (YT).

Is this due to cultural attitudes of teachers (RR)

Due to a range of reasons, issue is complex, consultants working with schools (YT)

Progress of EM improves in secondary schools, value added, overall attainment improving and this is verified by data, page 19. Data shows 14% improvement in results for Pakistani origin pupils for 5 A*-C at GCSE. Need to be cautious as this is only one cohort of 350 pupils. Pupils doing better than equivalent socio economic white pupils based on 2001 census which uses postcodes. Support that has gone into schools is making significant impact (LG).

EMAG funding under threat as focus shifts to white working class pupils, may make success fragile (RK).

Funding comes through DFEE there is room for manoeuvre, want to keep same level of support, schools forum advises CC (LG)

The report was positive and generally pleasing (RR)

Why are so many Pakistani heritage pupils not in education at post 16? (RK)

These may be drop outs not in contact with any service. We cannot force them to do anything, Connexions may try. May look at wider services as part of our work. Talking about only about 60 pupils (LG)

Other issues we wish to discuss in future may be segregated communities and catchments areas (RR)

What about BME pupils in grammar schools? (ZJ)

Very low, data will be available in future (YT)

Project being discussed aimed at BME pupils needs £62k. Other money and projects at schools level (LG)

Cressex update. Moving along as planned (RR)

Nicola Cook can come and talk to MPA about governor recruitment (LG)

Date of next meeting Thursday 10 May 2007