

MPA contribution to BCC request for Early Years improvement:

First, the MPA recorded their appreciation for the approach by Ms Jeffries. The MPA wish to assure her and BCC, the MPA will always react fully and positively to any matters relating to the BME Underachievement agenda.

At the MPA meeting on the 9th October 2008, this particular request was carefully and fully considered. The following response was recorded.

[Guide line questions from BCC in Blue below.](#)

The key question is – [What else can be done to improve children’s learning opportunities?](#)

1. A Paper on the Underachievement issue by the MPA (working title MPA - The Green Paper) is in the final process of preparation. This paper will be circulated to all interested parties. Hopefully the County will find some answers and guidelines in the paper.
2. Empowering parents
3. Understanding ‘what has gone wrong’ in the past and placing a structure in place to ensure it stops going wrong now and in the future.
4. Delivering ‘The message’ to the Community.
5. Are Book Bags culturally related?

[What can you \(Community Leaders\) do to help?](#)

- [Consider the results for the Asian/Asian British Pakistani population](#)
Results understood by all and known to be unacceptable by same.
- [What is the 0-5 experience like for this group?](#)
The anecdotal evidence appears is ‘Good’.
- [Do they take up their free early year’s education place?](#)
The Association felt this was taken up fully. However. This question was felt to be very important, and wish to inquire from the County if a definitive answer can be established from the County’s records.
- [If not, can you help us understand why not?](#)
N/A
- [Do parents want/need support to engage in their children’s learning?](#)
Absolutely Yes
- [If so, what would be useful to them?](#)
This would vary on the Socio-Economic class definition of the parents. Direct and extensive intervention with the parents.

In addition the MPA would like to submit the following thought for County’s consideration and hope they will be helpful:

- Since the overwhelming majority of the Pakistani Community in HW is of Mirpuri origin and The Midlands, experience of the penetration of this community in the Midlands should be sought out. And considered for application in Bucks.
- Direct and extensive intervention with the parents. Access to parents. In the current evolution of our (BCC & MPA) mutual goal, this appears

to be next hurdle to conquer. The writer of this report has noted the successes in goal-sharing between BCC & MPA thus far, and is confident of a positive outcome.

- The Children of New Immigrants must be monitored very carefully in order not to repeat previous mistakes.
- At the forthcoming meeting of the Community Consultative Committee, the MPA hope to announce the unreserved intention of HW Mosques to play a full part in the elimination of Underachievement.
- Research at the New Bucks University. A Leading member of the MPA reported that there was a possible research project commencing on the Mirpuri community in HW. The County may wish to explore possibilities in this area.

John Bajina,
Associate Member,
Muslim Parents Association.
10th October 2008