NSPCC

Working with faith communities to prevent abuse and neglect:
challenges and opportunities

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EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR
• Snapshot of major faith communities in the UK and Tri-borough
• Challenges and opportunities for engaging with faith groups
• Introduction to the NSPCC Multi-faith Safeguarding Hub
• The role of faith communities in preventing child neglect
Defining faith community

The term `faith community’ is used to encompass any setting where religious beliefs give direction to an activity or way of life. It may be applied to a formal place of worship, individuals, groups or organisation affiliated to a particular faith.
Child Welfare in the UK

Dr. Thomas Barnardo 1867
Rev. Thomas Stephenson 1869
Rev. Benjamin Waugh 1884
Major faith communities in the UK and Tri-borough
Trends in Religious Affiliation in the UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>45million</td>
<td>41million</td>
<td>-7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No religion</td>
<td>9million</td>
<td>13.4million</td>
<td>+48.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>1.9million</td>
<td>2.6million</td>
<td>+36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td>790,000</td>
<td>+43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikh</td>
<td>336,000</td>
<td>340,000</td>
<td>+1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>272,000</td>
<td>270,000</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>270,000</td>
<td>+74.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other religion</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>610,000</td>
<td>+57.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey
Religious Affiliation in the Tri-borough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>LBHF</th>
<th>RBKC</th>
<th>WCC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikh</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Census 2011 (ONS)
## Children subject to child protection plan in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic group</th>
<th>% in population</th>
<th>% subject to Child Protection Plan</th>
<th>% subject to Serious Case Reviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>85.12%</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have recorded disability</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data for the year ending 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2012, Department for Education (2013) and Office for National Statistics (2012)
Safeguarding children and young people within faith settings
Some current challenges

• Understanding belief systems which may or may not be consciously shaped by faith and religion but may influence the effective protection of children.

• Identifying and enlisting the support of leaders or central bodies to facilitate or influence safeguarding good practice

• Getting faith groups to look beyond criminal records checks to develop other areas of safeguarding practice, i.e safer recruitment, emerging forms of abuse, neglect.

• Knowing how best to use the learning and intelligence gained from faith communities to meet the needs of vulnerable children in the communities.
Multi-faith Safeguarding Hub

- Personal video statements
- Stories and texts
- Case scenarios
- Examples of good practice
- Information, resources and events
- Specialist organisations

Films from the Multi-faith Safeguarding Hub
Do faith communities have a role in preventing neglect?
Opportunities for faith communities to prevent neglect

• Speak out against all forms of harm and abuse of children and emphasise that harming a child is not condoned in their religion.

• Ensure that neglect is defined in child protection policies and the signs and risk factors are outlined so they can be spotted early.

• Promote education and training on neglect. Invite professionals to speak on the subject matter to community members.
Opportunities for faith communities to prevent neglect

• Provide practical help and support for parents who are struggling – parent groups, childcare facilities, materials, safe space for children to play and learn.

• Create the opportunities for parents and carers to share problems and work towards managing those problems at an early stage, e.g. pastoral support and befriending schemes

• Enable access to help from professional services

• Lend their voice and influence to the campaign to raise awareness of neglect, e.g. use religious media (including social media).
Community Engagement

Consider:

• What is your model of participation?
• What is the most suitable method for engagement?
• How does the group want to engage?
• What is the capacity of the group?
• What resources are available?
• What information, training or skills you require?
• What leverage might you have?

Cartoon courtesy of Regina Faul-Doyl
The point of connection

Child Neglect Campaign

Your work

Concerns/needs of local faith/minority Ethnic group

Inside cover
Questions and discussion:

What may be a point of connection to raise awareness of child neglect and meet the needs/concerns of the local faith, minority ethnic or community group you want to engage?

What opportunities might there be for engagement?
Thank you!

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