Silent Tragedy

Child abuse: recognizing and early intervention

Conference Report

8 February 2013
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1. The Aim of the Conference

It is highly important that this subject is discussed in more platforms as it is an issue of high importance within the BAMER community. Issues such as forced marriages, honour based violence and FGM is prevalent within the BAMER community and at times it slips the net unrecognised or unidentified. The conference enabled the participants to explore different types of harmful practices and how they are perceived and intervened in the generic services.

The Conference gave professionals from different organisations and pathways to exchange ideas and knowledge, learn about different indicators of abuse and develop a better understanding of different approaches in recognising abuse and intervention. It created the opportunity to explore further the indicators and impact of different types of child abuse within the community as well as it enabled the participants to reflect upon their own practice in identify abuse in the BAMER community.

This conference aimed at enabling professionals to incorporate the information with their existing skills and practice to provide improved services for the BAMER community. Consequently, it also aimed to make the approach to child abuse cases more effective with more positive outcomes. Both the speakers and the workshops would help the participants to enrich their current understanding as well as other professionals in their integrated networks.

Overall, with this conference we aimed to bring out the issue the BAMER community have around child abuse and to enhance the current practice of the professional agencies in addressing these issues sensitively and appropriately. Also contribute to the effectiveness and the quality of the level of assessment and to make distinguishes of certain cases. Raise questions around our own prejudices and stereotypes and how our assessments are contaminated by our own belief and fears.
2- Summary of talks

Gul Heptinstall the Executive Secretary of IMECE and Team Manager at Children's Services Assessment, Safeguarding & Family Support Service at Southwark Council, welcomed the participants and stated that the conference is about early intervention and early recognition of child abuse. *We are hoping to discuss about our role in protecting our children by identifying risk and responding to it timely. Whether it is important to understand the cultural narratives or we need better understanding about the Child Protection Legislation and our role as an agent implementing it to secure safe environment for children.*

Heptinstall gave brief information about the programme of the day including the conference pack, the speakers, evaluation and other operational matters.
Richard Watts, the Islington Council's Executive Member for Children and Families started his speech by thanking IMECE for organising the conference on this important issue. He stated that Islington Council has always been committed to working in partnership with voluntary sector organisations in the borough and it tried everything to protect the voluntary sector to the greatest extend despite the cuts the government has imposed on the borough. He informed the audience that The Council specifically put significant resource to early intervention schemes such as Families First, which he stated to be excellent example of successful partnership work between public and voluntary sector organisations which includes IMECE.

**Why early intervention is crucial?**

Cllr Watts highlighted that the most efficient help to provide the victims of domestic violence is through early intervention. “*We can all imagine the impact on children seeing violence in the home and of growing up in an atmosphere where appaling acts are considered as normal, what that means someone’s development, what that means someone’s perception of what is normal behaviour. Stopping domestic violence, intervening early at source is crucial to tackling this problem and is the only morally right thing to do. You know the urgency of this cannot be overstated, that’s why we are determined to do everything we can as a borough to work with our partners both across the public sector and in the voluntary sector to make sure that we are getting services about early intervention right.*”

Cllr Watts also stated that early intervention is better investment in long term. “*We are living at a time of massive unprecedented, and in my view, unfair and unnecessary cuts in public spending. Islington is been hurt, one of the hardest boroughs in country by this, and you know, we collectively habitat throughout this massive round of cuts in order to protect services. We have seen the investment on families first and on our partners in the voluntary sector but there is not a lot of money out there for us to work therefore it makes sense to intervene early when a problem is fixable, instead of late when all you are doing is managing the consequences of the problem instead of actually trying to fix it. Early intervention both eliminated high amounts of spending and protected the victims from greater damage*”
When explaining the importance of single delivery point/hubs and single assessment framework for families; he stated that no one wants to tell her story 15 different times through their interaction with people that are trying to help them. “There is nothing more frustrating, nothing more difficult or challenging than if you have ploughed up the courage to say, to tell your story, to admit that you are a victim of abuse, to say that your children are at risk, and all of the worry that goes with doing that and all of the emotional barriers that have to be broken down to do that, and only to that person to write down your notes and the next person you speak to ask all the same questions all over again. It makes you think that collectively we are not listening as getting that single set of services for people who have taken the step to come forward and actually to say that they and their family are at risk. I think it is absolutely crucial to have a single assessment framework shared by all agencies supporting the family members”
Perdeep Gill, Independent Child Protection Trainer and Consultant who is a qualified social worker with over 20 years of experience started her talk by exploring the importance of being able to put oneself into another person’s shoes, the crucial aspect of being a human; empathy. Culture, belief and religion were discussed as having implications on child abuse in terms of being an eliciting motivation and explanation.

"One great mistake is to ignore individual differences when looking into social groups, simply regarding every individual of that group to share the same qualities...We tend to stereotyping the pathologising everybody because they are from a particular group”

Gill stated that there was a need for reframing or shifting our way of thinking. "The first bit I suppose we begin with is BM: what does that mean, it’s huge I mean when we start thinking about our minority, ethnic communities like diverse communities absolutely phenomenal number, so there is a danger that we kind of put everybody in one group and within even any one group. "One great mistake is to ignore individual differences when looking into social groups, simply regarding every individual of that group to share the same qualities.”

A whole host of stuff goes on around the corporation; differences in economic factors, whole host of factors come in to play with culture and religion that create both safety and potentially risk factors” Taking Black Minority Ethnic Communities as homogenous category and classifying their experiences as similar and assessing them through same indicators is one of the most important barrier preventing better understanding the risk and the needs.

Gill stated that the other issue contaminating the judgment during risk assessment was thinking about safe guarding in the cultural relativist framework. “It is basically a posh way of saying that it is ok for this family to have this practice and start shifting the threshold according to the family and their cultural, racial and religious background, therefore our pressure on child abuse shifts” According to Children Act in 2004 this should not happen since it states clearly that actually all children have the right to be protected and religion and culture cannot be in circumstances for abuse.
Is there a direct link between poverty and child abuse?

“Of course poverty creates vulnerability of course it does, but poverty itself is not the cause of child abuse, it has to be that poverty touches intermingles with something else that creates the child abuse”

Gill argued that there are various narratives used at the same time to explain a situation. She gave an example of a 18 months old boy who was killed by the father. When she reviewed the case she noted that the social workers who had had worked with the boy was aware of that the dad had schizophrenia but he had been stable on his medication. “He hadn’t had a psychotic episode for about 5 years. the mother knew the symptoms as he was paranoid. She knew how to seek for help. The social workers produced a child protection plan, monitoring everybody in the family. Many practitioners i.e. health visitor, family support workers were engaged. Six weeks later the little boy was dead. The father picked him up and hit him against the wall again and again.” The case review focused on the fact that no one realised that dad’s mental health was declining. How did the medical staff failed to identify the issue, how the mother did not realise? Later talking with community members Gill had access to totally different narrative. The community knew the fact that the dad believed that the boy was possessed. He talked about him being possessed for a long time. Since he brought in religious narrative to support his paranoia the mother also believed that the boy was possessed. She did not seek help as she believed in her husband’s narrative. “Unless I interviewed someone from the community I would have never known that there was a spirit possession issue” said Gill who continued with example cases where cultural and religious issue played the lead in terms of leading either the case or the intervention.

Do the social workers create resistance in the way they work with someone?

I hear a lot that the parents who killed their children or seriously hurt their children were resistant. We have to be worried about resistance, we also need to be thinking are we creating the resistance in the way were working with somebody, particularly if we represent the state as part of the local state we represent compulsory power we represent the stereotype of the state intervening in to family life’s and whipping children away even if we don’t do that there is that fantasy out there and shared probably by all of us that were serious are we not?” The resistance should be seen as part of “deviant amplification”. Once a case produces internal knowledge about the child bearing practices in one community, it creates suspicion among the practitioners who treat all cases in that community as they all have the same practice. “I was working with parents and in that particular group one of the things that stoked me is that something like ten out of the thirty said that their children had births none of them had gone to the hospital, None of them had gone to the hospital because they feared and I thought this is really incredibly sad they were frightened that if they go to the hospital the doctors will automatically think that the baby is under risk of spirit possession claims. The social services will come and the child will be removed and that to me was quite a damming endowment of us I thought maybe there’s a truism here maybe we sometimes overreact that we don’t ask enough questions yes we should obviously have to protect children but maybe we need to read the whole thing about contextualising actually we make it far more safer if our families feel they can’t go and seek for help services.”
Gill stated that The Children Act should be our baseline for measuring significant harm. We might not always have access to the information about the cultural practices of a community but we all know how to identify the harm. This should be our guidance for identifying safeguarding issues and producing child protection plans.

After having an interactive case study Gill concluded her talk with a saying that “our job is to deconstruct to make sense where vulnerability lie in the context of all of that information”
Feride Kumbasar the director of IMECE since 2009 presented the experiences within the Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish communities.

"We are here to talk about this silent issue and by doing that to break the silence today: child abuse in the community. Child abuse is any form of physical emotional or sexual mystery violence or lack of care that lead to injury and harm. It does not only happen in our communities, it happens everywhere. And it is not a hidden subject only in our communities but it’s a hidden, a taboo subject in every society. Recent news about Jimmy Saville at BBC and Rabbi’s in Jewish community, the priests in catholic church and we know that imams in mosques all are trying to hide this issue and trying us or victims to stop talking about it. Victims and perpetrators are coming from various racial ethnic and religious backgrounds. Like violence against women child abuse cuts across all kinds of social divisions such as class, religion, education. I believe that we are also responsible if we fail to recognise and raise the flag timely and as a result a child suffers of an abuse. I believe recognising and intervening to prevent child abuse is everybody’s responsibility”.

Kumbasar gave brief information about IMECE Women Centre and stated that it was not a specialist child protection agency but due to the high number of women expressing their experience of abuse in their childhood and due the increasing number of reporting of children experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence and forced marriage in the communities served, IMECE decided to run a campaign against child abuse. It is funded by Trust for London.

Kumbasar started her talk by giving some statistics about various forms of child abuse from researches done in Turkey and IMECE’s data collection. According to the ministry of justice in Turkey is 35% of the children in Turkey are subjected to physical violence; beating/smacking children is used as a method of educating and disciplining child in Turkey. According to the statistics of ministry of justice 4% of the population of children are subjected to sexual violence, again according to an independent research done by the Gazi University this number is 18%.
Talking about IMECE’s experience Kumbasar stated “we have 34% of counselling clients disclosed the unwanted sexual contacts in their childhood.”

Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish communities do not practice Female Genital Mutilation but Forced marriage (FM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV) are very common. Force marriage starts as young as 12-13 year olds. According to an independent research done by Aegean University with a sample of 6300 women; 51 % of the participants said that they were married without giving their consent. 46% of IMECE’s users said they were in forced marriages. Nearly half of the women’s population looks like being forced to marry without their consent.

Kumbasar shared a recent case from Turkey to explore how male control and dominancy played the role in honour killing. “In December 2012 a 15 year old young woman was killed by her parent to clear the family’s honour. The girl was forced into a marriage with a very older man in the village when she was 14. A year later she came back to her family’s home because she couldn’t actually bear with him anymore. While she was living with her own family she was raped by her two cousins and she got pregnant as a result. Four months later when her pregnancy became visible the family decided to kill her to clear the honour. The family did not kill her rapists but the victim.”

The honour based violence sometimes presents itself with sexual abuse and the virginity control is extremely common in Turkey and here. We hear that some of the families are taking their young children to the GP for a virginity test. Virginity is important, until the marriage the young girls need to keep themselves a virgin. But it is in their later life that women are stating that the test itself is very humiliating, how they felt ashamed and how they were scared of the consequences of being sexually active. Many young girls are put through to humiliation as a result of false rumours and gossips or walking on the street with friends which all seem to be enough for a reason for a virginity test.”

Although there is not any statistics to reflect the true scale of the issue, Kumbasar stated that sexual exploitation is increasing drastically as very recently IMECE started receiving reports from families presenting issues of their daughters being in gangs and being exploited by male gang members for trading drugs or for attracting new gang members.

Another very common form of abuse is presented as custody related abuse. It is said to be extremely high in divorce cases in which the young children are being pushed between parents and between the authorities. The mothers get their share of abuse along with the children in such situations. Their privacy gets violated by so many authorities being involved. They are continuously labelled as mentally ill and morally unfit. Their parenting abilities are being questioned by the community and by the partners. While the children are exposed to various immoral discourses about their mothers and manipulated by the relatives and in some cases they might enjoy being the stake in the battlefield. All these have traumatic effects on children.

Stereotyping and judgemental approaches blind the assessors as a result the children suffer.
Kumbasar talked about two cases in depth to highlight the issues with risk assessments and lack of integrated working within community groups. She stated that stereotyping and judgemental approaches blind the assessors as a result the children suffer. It is stated that lack of cultural understanding – cultural understanding not in terms of understanding Turkish, Kurdish or Rwandan culture but lack of understanding of violence against women and girls, lack of understanding of child abuse or lack of understanding of human’s rights contaminate the risk assessment and judgements of many frontline workers.

Kumbasar talked about a case in which the mother with three children fled home to police station because the mother was scared of her ex-partner abusing her youngest son. “The police officers who received her report convinced that the mother was homophobic -as most of the Turkish/ Kurdish community members would be- as she thought that all gay men were child abusers. The risk assessment (no formal risk assessment was carried out) scored standard. When she was assessed at IMECE she reported various signs to show that her ex-partner was a child abuser, and that the partner in fact had a relationship with a boy who was 12-13, and that he was cruel to animals. Asking various questions about the situation revealed totally different story in which children and the mother were at high risk”

Are Mental Capacity Tests appropriate when working with BME families?

Another case from IMECE’s users was shared to highlight how lack of monitoring by the social workers after the decision was made on an action plan leads the child and their carer to suffer for a long time. Feride Kumbasar stated that reversing a decision made by social services is hard, painful and most of the time impossible. Another case was discussed to highlight the cultural appropriateness of mental capacity assessment. An illiterate mother lost her son’s custody on the basis of a test which asked her to identify the joke of a cartoon with small script, or complete a puzzle; explain what metropolis is and etc.

Feride Kumbasar expressed her fear that as a result of welfare cuts more children would be living in poverty and would be neglected as a result. The room tax that will be imposed on families through new housing arrangements would lead to many families to rent out their spare rooms and start living with strangers which might increase risk for children. The communities have limited knowledge of the system and their rights they might face some kinds of issues happening in their households but would not know how to report it or would not be able to speak up.

Kumbasar concluded her talk with a set of recommendations which emphasised the importance of integrated working with specialist organisations, asking relevant and appropriate questions and having non-judgemental approach for better risk assessment and child protection plan. Therefore there is a continuous need for training for front line professionals to feel confident in exploring abuse. Children are vulnerable; they need better support systems and close monitoring. Understanding of confidentiality and conflict of interest in tight nit communities is vital.
Tim Kent, Psychotherapist and Clinical Coordinator, City and Hackney Primary care Psychotherapy Consultation Service, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and has also been a social worker for just over twenty years. He stated that one of the reasons why he was interested to participate in this conference was because he is an expert witness in the family court assessing child deaths, family violence and maltreatment for some years and he is passionate about the subject. “I wanted to talk about the silence particularly. One of the things about silence is, it is not about children and families, it is not about women not being or falling able to speak out or feeling listened to, it is about the power of anxiety which silences ourselves, and yes of course there are political power dynamics at play, I am sure you all understand and are interested in them, but there are also internal experiences that we find very difficult to think about”.

Kent explains that dealing with child protection work is particularly difficult and even at some stages dangerous. At some point’s the morality of individuals battle against the fear they hold when facing a difficult, unexpected or predictable situations where the outcome is a total misery. Kent stated the role of media and how social workers or child protection officers are under risk of being labelled as scapegoats of a maltreated child which can hit the screens at any time. Kent illustrates the importance of media by mentioning the Savile Enquiry. A case which attracted broad media coverage and rapidly growing body of witness statements and many sexual abuse claims were made. Jimmy Savile an important religious man who has power, authority and dominance over a cultural system was accused of sexual abuse where the age range of victims varied from 8 to 47. Kent states that people who are socially positioned to have authority and power create fright which obstructs the passage of confronting. Emphasising on the fact that sexual exploitation does not depend on status, religion or cultural Kent said “Jimmy Savile could have been a Catholic Priest, mother or father, an Imam or a Rabbi”.

Tim Kent also indicated the traumatic effect of sexual abuse on a child’s behavioural development. “It is an insult to the ordinary development” suddenly
becoming sexually aware of one's body in a traumatic way is impossible to digest and a completely overwhelming experience for a child to overcome.
Melissa Friedberg Safeguarding Children Board Manager and Sharon Wedderburn Specialist Social Worker for Sexual Exploitation LB Islington co-delivered their talk.

Wedderburn started off by defining child exploitation and continued to identify different ways children are victims of sexual exploitation. She stated that "the sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitive situation context and relationships where young people or a third part person or persons receive something example; food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarette, affection, money, gifts as a result of performing and/or others performing sexual activities"

Wedderburn outlined the ways sexual exploitation can occur, and highlighted the fact that it can happen at the extent where the child is not conscious and it is not present at immediate recognition. It can take place online where children can be forced to upload photos of self, “child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet, mobile phones without the immediate pay mental gain; in all cases those exploiting the young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, internet, physical strength and/or economic resources”

It can simply happen where a boyfriend forces the child into an unwanted sexual intercourse with his friends. Wedderburn gave examples of some peer to peer exploitation cases. "When my loving boyfriend who I believe that I was in a nice relationship now tells me that you need to sleep with my friends because I owe them money and I can’t pay them so you need to do this. Initially I think ok I love this person so I’m just going to do this and it turns that it’s not one it’s several occasions”

Child trafficking can also take place by deceiving parents on the premises of assuring a better life of escaping the poverty and bad conditions. Once in the border of United Kingdom they are faced with this statement “you need to sleep with several men because we paid your air fare”
Friedberg indicated an additional point by highlighting the existence of children who are at greater risk, for example disabled children are at higher risk and also are less likely to express the exploitation due to their increased vulnerability and also dependency on others. Beyond this the extra importance we give to young girls can result the dismissal of young boys who are also victims of sexual exploitation.

Melissa explained the three categories of risk
1. young child is at risk and groomed for sexual exploitation
2. child is targeted for opportunistic abuse.
3. a child who is sexually exploited.

Identifying exploitation at the right time is put forward as a vital point.

What would raise the alarm? The child going missing is really a key one, changing appearance and changing behaviour, receiving gifts, presents and having money would be some of the signs. Alcohol and drug use, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and tiredness and self-harm, all of these kind of and also missing from school are key indicators. Getting into cars with unknown adults and controlling boyfriends should also raise the alarm. Friedberg also indicated that the Islington Council have been putting various actions in terms of raising awareness about the issue and to reduce sexual exploitation.
Leethen Bartholomew is Community Partnership Advisor and his role is around safeguarding children within BME communities. In his presentation he discussed how important culture and belief is in people's lives and is really important for practitioners to use because it can make a difference between if you do a good assessment and then you can assess whether there is an high probability or a low probability how causes a particular child. He also highlighted the video project he is working on. “So in Hackney what we wanted to do is to hear children’s voices, we wanted to hear what young people wanted to tell us around four specific areas: domestic violence, forced marriage, gender based violence and honour based violence. As part of the project we decided to get a group of young people, we initially wanted 12 we ended up at 9 and we trained these young people to become peer researchers. We give them training on how to do a research, how to handle disclosures, training around domestic violence, honour based violence forced marriage and around safeguarding children. Then we gave them questionnaires. Then they went into their school, youth clubs, interviewed young people and we got 189 responses. We as professionals have an agenda, but we need young people as well to give us advice to, we set the questions and then we gave it to them, we asked them to reinterpret it, to ask them in the way they felt is much more suitable for their group for the young people in their communities. Then we analysed the responses and we looked at major themes. We used those major themes to develop further questions to direct questions on other young people in four focus groups” which were recorded to produce a video which was shown to the participants.”
3. DVD: Our communities, our voices, our views: Hackney young people speak about safeguarding issues

The DVD showed footages of young pupils, expressing their knowledge and feelings of violence in their community and how they conceptualise their experiences and their fears.

*Bartholomew informed the audience* "We asked the girls what do you think boys are worried most about, and the girls said the boys are mostly worried about gang. We also asked the boys, what do you think girls worry about most, and they said girls are mostly worried about being raped. We then go in to the depth of that, something that’s interesting came out of that when questioning us and young people is that, the young people have a good understanding of how gender differences within their communities affect their lives."

The copy of the DVD: *Our communities, Our voices, Our Views: Hackney young people speak about safeguarding issues* can be obtained from Leethen Bartholomew.
4. Learning and Recommendations

The conference highlighted that various child abuse are taking place in the communities. Some of the forms that are identified as:

- It is every practitioner's role to identify and respond to child abuse timely.
- Early intervention and single assessment framework are important to prevent children being abused.
- Children are pushed about between parents during separation
- Young women are groomed for sexual exploitation and sexually exploited by gangs.
- Poverty creates vulnerability of course it does, but poverty itself is not the cause of child abuse
- Culture, belief and religion have implications on child abuse in terms of being an eliciting motivation and explanation.
- Young people have a good understanding of how gender differences within their communities affect their lives
- Marriage is seen as a cure for 'misbehaviour' and young girls are forced to marry to their close relatives.
- Sexual abuse has a traumatic effect on a child’s behavioural development. It is an insult to the ordinary development.
- It is about the power of anxiety which silences ourselves
- People who are socially positioned to have authority and power create fright which obstructs the passage of confronting and speaking up about the abuse.
- There are patches of integrated working practices which produces better outcome.
- Stereotyping and judgemental approach affect the quality of risk assessments
- Some questions in Mental Capacity Assessment are very European white oriented.
- Once the decision is made by Social Services it is extremely difficult to reverse it. Lack of monitoring and follow up make it hard to assess the outcome of the decision and reverse it.
- Lack of specialist services
Following our learning above recommendations are identified as

- Advocacy and integrated working with specialist organisations is necessary
- Asking relevant and appropriate questions during assessment are useful
- Non-judgemental approach is necessary
- Training for frontline professionals to feel confident in exploring abuse with their clients
- Vulnerable people are under high risk, better support systems and close monitoring are necessary
- Understanding of confidentiality and conflict of interest in tight-knit community
- The new Welfare Reform and housing changes will have direct impact on child’s poverty and vulnerability for abuse.
- Oblivion of such important issue should not be allowed.
- Standardizing and improving trainings of this area is vital for effectiveness and efficiency.
5. Evaluation of the Conference

Majority of the participants stated that the conference met their expectations. Participants also reported some remarkable aspects of the conference that they particularly liked, such as:

- Interesting and varied speakers
- Full and rounded information that the conference provided
- Well-presented sessions by the engaged speakers
- Informative, useful and relevant content
- Great introduction to issues affecting children, families, and women
- Positive project for young people
- Good spread of information on other projects

Positive feedback was given about the speeches of speakers and topics. The participants stated some parts of the speeches that they found interesting and useful:

- Perdeep Gill’s interactive talk, especially the role play
- Child exploitation, particularly child trafficking
- The DVD featuring young people discussing gender/honour based violence
- Sharing experiences and being informed about various cultural practices and how they play a part in children’s upbringing
- Discussion around ‘acceptance’ and ‘normalising’ practices and how they differ from one culture to another

Some participants reported that they were very happy with the facilitation. They pointed out that:

- The event was well organised and the staff were very welcoming
- The venue was nice, well ventilated, and there was plenty of room for everyone
- The conference pack well-presented and very informative
- It was a pleasant venue and effective facilitation
- Good networking opportunities, meeting with other providers

In addition, some participants mentioned about technical difficulties with IT. The video did not work properly and a participant stated she could not catch everything and the speaker had to leave for another meeting because of this problem. Another participant suggested that more breaks could be given between talks to give people a chance to digest what’s being told and have the opportunity to network more.
6. Acknowledgements

IMECE acknowledges the contributions of the following groups and individuals to the evolution of the conference:

We are thankful to Trust for London for funding the project, Resource for London for providing the venue, Gul Heptinstall for chairing the event, our speakers for sharing their experience and knowledge, our partner organisations for participating and actively disseminating information and for our staff and volunteers who organized the event.

The staff and volunteers who organized the event are:
Staff: Feride Kumbasar, Vangul Demirkan, Senay Dur, Eylem Yagbasan, Emine Yoca, Aliye Reilly, Ozlem Alp sen, Ozlem Hangul, Ahu Sukur, A.Isil Sansoy, Diren Yilmaz and our volunteers Ceyda Cihan, Ozge Enez, Merve Yavuz, Filiz Benli, and Sibel Kocak

And we are thankful to all participants who attended and contributed to this conference, without their participation this conference would not be successful.
7. APPENDIX

7.1 Speakers Biographies

Cllr RICHARD WATTS
Islington Council’s Executive Member for Children and Families, taking political responsibility for the work of the Children’s Services department, including improving schools, early years provision, reducing child poverty, child protection, fostering and adoption. And has represented Tollington ward in the north of Islington since 2006.

Before becoming a full time member of the council’s Executive he ran the Children’s Food Campaign, a national campaign to improve children’s diets. Before this, he worked for a number of different campaigns and a consultancy organisation, which led to some work in Kosovo helping develop the political party that formed out of the KLA guerrilla army.

Graduated with a degree in politics from Durham University and before this worked in the Pretty Polly tights factory in Nottinghamshire.

He is a governor of City and Islington College.

FERIDE KUMBASAR
Director of IMECE Women’s Centre since 2009. Previously managed Community Development Programme in Hackney. In 2009 Feride produced three handbooks for frontline practitioners on Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation for KMEWO. Between 1998 and 2005 she assisted establishment of many refugee women’s groups by providing support on governance, fundraising and policy development.

Graduated with a degree in sociology from University of London, Goldsmiths College and did her MA in Urban Regeneration at Westminster University.

LEETHEN BARTHOLOMEW
A qualified social worker with a background in probation and child protection. For the past 7 years he has worked as the Community Partnership Adviser (CPA) in Hackney. Within this role he is responsible for safeguarding children within Black and Minority Ethnic communities and places of worship with some emphasis on child trafficking, ‘honour’ based violence, Female Genital Mutilation and children abused through a belief in spirit possession and/or witchcraft. Apart from delivering safeguarding children training to community organisations, places of worship and parents in the community, Leethen’s remit also involves joint working cases with social workers involving the four specialised areas. He is currently a PhD student at the University of Sussex and his research topic focuses on outcomes for children where there’s an accusation of abuse linked to a belief in spirit possession and witchcraft.

PERDEEP GILL
A qualified social worker with over 20-years’ experience and has worked in child protection in Local Authorities and the voluntary sector as a social worker, child protection advisor and in managerial roles.

Perdeep’s experience has spanned many organisations including Great Ormond Street Hospital, the NSPCC and the Metropolitan Police Service.
She has given evidence to a United Nations working group in regard to modern day forms of slavery and children; written about organised abuse and specialist child protection manuals for Community Care Inform and is a Board member of Community Care Inform.

Perdeep is an independent safeguarding advisor to a number of voluntary and faith setting organisations and was an advisor to the Metropolitan Police.

TIM KENT
A Psychotherapist and Clinical Coordinator, City and Hackney Primary care Psychotherapy Consultation Service, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

An Adult Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist and Social Worker currently in the NHS working with individuals, couples and families with complex mental health problems and medically unexplained symptoms.

Many of the cases include aspects of maltreatment both in the current family situation and the childhood history of their patients. Prior to this he has been a registered social worker for twenty years working in child protection, fostering, adoption, disability and CAMHS services. After some years working in community social work in Hackney during the 90s He ran a community CAMHS team for Looked After Children in LB Tower Hamlets Called 'Help for You' for 8 years. He took part in a series of successful conferences in collaboration with east London Mosque and Children's Services on forced marriage and the impact of parental mental health issues on children. For the last few years he worked as Consultant Psychotherapist and Social Worker at the Monroe Family Assessment Service, assessing child abuse and maltreatment as an expert witness for the family courts. Some of their cases involved so called honour based violence against women and children.

SHARON WEDDERBURN
Specialist Social Worker for Private Fostering, Child Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation

Sharon Wedderburn is the lead social worker for Private Fostering, Child Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation within Islington Children Services. She qualified as a social worker in 2000 and has over twelve years of statutory experience within the field of Children Social Care.

Sharon has worked for Islington Council since 2004; she is dedicated to improving services and has participated in research, piloted the Safeguarding Trafficked Children Guidance and Toolkit, and is relentlessly working to improve awareness of Child Trafficking, Private Fostering, and Sexual Exploitation within the community, partner agencies, and statutory services. She has been instrumental in establishing new ways of working with UKBA and has been creative in establishing strategies that identify hidden children within the community and keeping them safe once identified.

MELISSA FRIEDBERG
Melissa Friedberg has been the Manager of Islington Safeguarding Children Board since 2003. She works with a wide range of agencies from all sectors to safeguard and protect children. This involves developing policies, procedures and strategies. She also works with agencies to raise awareness of emerging issues, for example sexual exploitation.
7.2 Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makbule Gunes</td>
<td>Action For Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anette Moses</td>
<td>A.F.C</td>
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<td>Abed Moftizahed</td>
<td>Cambridge Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Penrose</td>
<td>Solace Women's Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue White</td>
<td>Action For Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diana Chituku</td>
<td>African Women's Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yolande Dieleman</td>
<td>CSPU Office &amp; Sub-Group Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Dolan</td>
<td>Islington Children's Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean-Pierre Rossouw</td>
<td>Parkguard Limited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharlene Anglin</td>
<td>Mother Tongue &amp; Supplementary Schools Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikki Bevan</td>
<td>Islington CSC, Barnsbury Child In Need Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catriona D’arcy</td>
<td>Families First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorett Jones</td>
<td>Imkaan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Clarke</td>
<td>Chance UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emua Ali</td>
<td>LAAMIGA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reeta Kauppinen</td>
<td>City And Hackney Mind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estella Willoughby</td>
<td>Families First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gill Tan</td>
<td>Islington Chinese Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Zhang</td>
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<td>Laura Gafoor</td>
<td>City And Hackney Mind</td>
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<td>Lilly Begum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ali Aksoy</td>
<td>Hackney Refugee Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kadir Karahan</td>
<td>St. Mungos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Denning</td>
<td>Family Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverley Foster</td>
<td>Family Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryam Shadmani</td>
<td>IKWRO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irma Hernandez</td>
<td>Latin American Women Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veronica Vidal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayla Karalar</td>
<td>Hestia Hackney Abuse Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie-Wambui Kings</td>
<td>S.H.P. Single Homeless Project</td>
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<td>Estella Pimentel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nhi Vinh Chu</td>
<td>Hackney Family Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulderen Koyel</td>
<td>Turkish &amp; Kurdish Children's Group</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Silent tragedy: Child Abuse
Recognising and Early Intervention

Bediz Evin
Turkish & Kurdish Children’s Group

Emaua Ali
LAAAMIGA

Sylvia Pleasant
Nia Ending Violence

Sunita Gunesh
Enfiled Carers Centre

Winifred Creaven
River Place Health Centre

Tahiri Halaleh
Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation

Karen Gasson
Whittington Health Team

Selma Altun
Derman

Suna Guven
Derman

Meral Halkaci
Derman

Stella Zorilla Campos
Latin American Women’s Aid

Selma Taha
Victim Support

Alexandra Gordon
Action For Children

Nathalie Brossard
The Camden Society

Janet Mudidi
City & Islington Collage

Ahu Sukur
IMECE Women’s Centre

Emine Yoca
IMECE Women’s Centre

Ozlem Hangel
IMECE Women’s Centre

Ozlem Alpsen
IMECE Women’s Centre

Vangul Demirkan
IMECE Women’s Centre

Aliye Reilly
IMECE Women’s Centre

Eylem Yagbasan
IMECE Women’s Centre

A.Isil Sansoy
IMECE Women’s Centre

Senay Dur
IMECE Women’s Centre

Ceyda Cihan
IMECE Women’s Centre-Volunteers

Ozge Enez
IMECE Women’s Centre-Volunteers

Meltem Tercan Ozyurt
IMECE Women’s Centre-Volunteers

Merve Yavuz
IMECE Women’s Centre-Volunteers

Filiz Benli
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Asalet Tulaz
SOLACE Women’s Aid

Ruby Pearce
Islington Council

Emel Hakki
Family Action

Zubaida Metlo
Leeds University

James Humber
Centre 404

Manjit Sidhu
CASA
Apologies

Ferya Tas
King's College

Dylan Weeratunge
Off Centre

Sema Moussa
Day-Mer

Rita Rupal
LB Hackney-DV Team

Sawsan Salim
KMEWO

Julia Pennell
Mother Tongue & Supplementary Schools Partnership

Kirsty Lowe
MA In Child Abuse

Kathy Cohn
Casa/ Islington Community Alcohol

Meltem Erbil
Highgate Wood School

Everton Cameron
The Camden Society

Lucinda Hibberd
Islington

Anisha Mehta
Prison Advice

Clare Carty
Hestia Hackney Abuse Service

Andy Keefe
Freedom For Torture

Funda Kansu
Freedom For Torture

Sabaina Dumbuya
Islington Borough

Sioneid Churchill
Trust for London

Kritsy Marshall
Family Action

Nezahat Cihan
IKWRO

Jazmine Cheritanfranci
City & Hackney Mind

Saddaf Aslam
Family Action

Annie Nehma

Parvaneh Davoudi