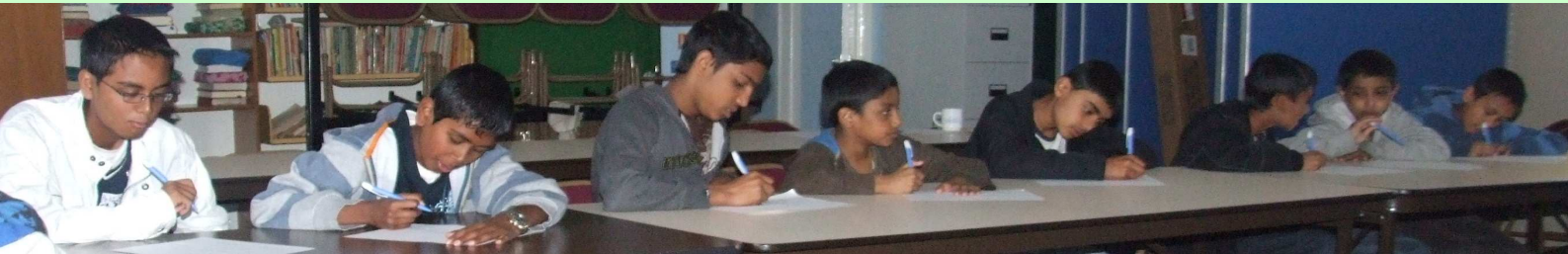


# Contribution to third sector development

## Program Development and Implementation

### Education and Lifelong Learning Review



In many households we work with, adults are not in either employment or in education. Often we find that there are no good role models for children. Many families have low incomes and, in particular, children are living in overcrowded housing conditions. In addition, there is a lack of family support for these kids, so education has become a continuous uphill struggle for them. As a result, educational underachievement is widespread among British Bangladeshi children. Also, the lack of a “learning culture” within the community contributes to the ongoing poverty, social exclusion and disillusionment with education. The sad fact is that a large number of British Bangladeshis find themselves poorly educated and without employment.

To mitigate these problems, we introduced the education and lifelong learning programme comprising of Homework Club and Family Learning to work with families and children across three towns of Sandwell. We hope to break the barriers to learning and show that learning is fun, can take place everywhere and can be achieved by everyone, whatever their age or interest.

Therefore, we put all our efforts to raise achievement levels, expectations and aspirations of both children and adults, promote rolemodelship and community capacity building. As a result of which in 2008, we contributed to an amazing 68% A\*- C grade pass rate for Bangladeshi pupils - 10% better than their national counterparts. We have contributed to the achievement of these outstanding outcomes because of the unique support we provided through qualified staff during one-to-one sessions and group sessions. Our pupils are able to get extra support for coursework and topics and units in areas they find difficult such as Maths, English or Science. For example one of our pupil achieved 5 As, 2 Bs and 3 Cs.

Furthermore, a clear framework of family learning support is provided to bring together early education and family support. Here we provide a “Learning Together” five-year programme delivered by two multilingual tutors to develop essential skills and knowledge areas to enable parents to support their children’s learning. It seeks to enhance the confidence and self-esteem of both children and adults and help towards pursuing a *culture of learning* at home and in the community.

**We recognise that local community centres such as the BIC and schools located at the heart of the community are well placed to take up the challenge of making Every Child Matters a reality.**

Mr Kobir Uddin a local parent said, “This Centre is doing a great job with our children and I appreciate it. Long may it continue.” Mr Nural Islam (a parent of a homework club user) said, “I am very happy with the service BIC is providing for my children to improve their results at school. Also I feel assured that my children are in a safe environment of learning, away from the many mischievous things that are faced by children today.”

