



Annual Report

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Foreword from the Chairperson



I would like to open this report by thanking all the staff, volunteers and members of the board of trustee's whose commitment to the Afghan Association Paiwand is essential to its survival. Their commitment has given the project a stability in difficult times which has ensured its continued existence.

A special thanks also goes to Mr Farid Mall, the coordinator of the association, who is the backbone of the organisation and largely responsible for running the office and its day to day activities. I thank him for his nonstop hard work; without his dedication the organisation would not be here today.

The Afghan Association Paiwand is conscious of the financial difficulties currently faced by individuals and the organisation but as a chair of this Association it gives me great pleasure to inform you that in spite of the difficulties we have faced, we have managed to complete a busy and successful year. We are therefore grateful to everyone who has supported us in so many ways.

Although we remain committed to meet the needs of the Afghan community, we felt that there has been greater need for our services to other black, minority, ethnic and refugee communities. So we have successfully expanded our services to all refugees from various backgrounds and nationalities.

We have worked diligently to improve our services as we now have a stronger workforce than ever before. I am pleased to say that Paiwand is not a one man organisation; it is equipped with a team of professional and experienced full time and part time staff ready to provide high quality service to our beneficiaries.

On behalf of the organisation and its beneficiaries I would like to thank all our funders and supporters who have financially supported and enabled us to provide services to our individual clients and local partners.

Shabibi Shah Nala

Chairperson

Legal and Administrative Information

The organisation is registered with both the Charity Commission and Company House and has become a company limited by guarantee. We currently operate from our office in Colindale at:

10th Floor
Hyde House
The Hyde
Colindale
NW9 6LH

Detailed information about our organisation and its activities can be found on our website:
www.paiwand.com

Board of Trustees/Directors

The trustees serving in 2009/10 were:

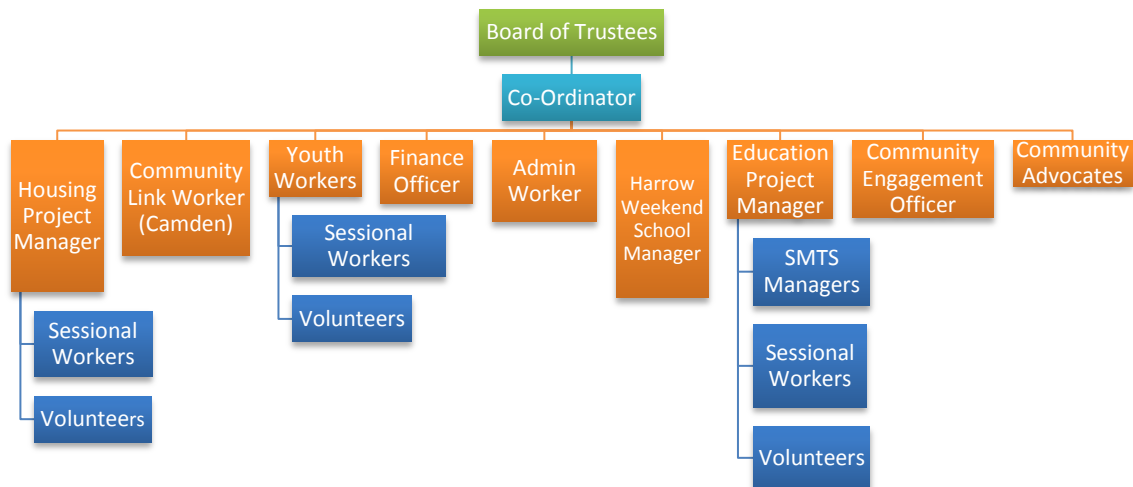
Ms Shabibi Shah Nala	Chairperson
Mr. Charles O'Toole	Vice Chairperson
Mrs Soraya Sediq	Treasurer
Mrs Tooba Ezzat	Member
Ahmad Waheed	Member

Length of the Financial Year/Annual Report

This report covers the 12 months period, from April 2009 to March 2010. This document accompanies the Annual Accounts, copies of which are available on request.

Organisational Chart

Afghan Association Paiwand (“Paiwand”) works through a team of full and part time workers with complementary skills. In addition to the team of ten staff members, a team of 60 unpaid volunteers and 28 sessional workers (paid on a sessional or hourly basis) are involved in running our activities. Overall guidance is provided by the Board of Trustees and Activity-Review Committees which include members of the Afghan community.



Our Staff

Coordinator	Ahmad Farid Mall
Administrative Worker	Lina Amir
Financial Officer	Soheir Ali
Community Advocates	Karen Reid & Rahul Khanna
Community Engagement Officer	Wahed Safi
Education Project Manager	Wallizada Mohibullah
Youth Workers	Samira Lahfa & Siamak Nikoopour
Housing Project Manager	Gary Bell
Community Link Worker (Camden)	Patuni Hedayat
Harrow Weekend School Manager	Zahra Reza Tayeb

Trustees' Report

Introduction

Paiwand is a registered charity working towards empowering the Afghan refugee community in the UK by providing information and advice as well as other specialised services. It works in a variety of different ways through a number of population groups within the Afghan Community. The overall focus of Paiwand's work is to increase access to critical information and services that may improve the well-being of the Afghan community and facilitate their integration into British society.

We achieve this by providing a number of services to beneficiaries:

- Provision of information and advice on entitlement to social and welfare benefits; access to education and both mental and physical health issues.
- Provision of interpretation, translation, outreach and counselling services.
- Meeting the educational and training needs of the Afghan community, in particular younger people. This includes providing Supplementary (maths and science) and Mother Tongue Schools. We also offer ESOL classes and mentoring for vulnerable youths.
- Running social activities including drama and dance classes, a choir, music classes, two football teams, a cricket club, a basketball team, and a tae-kwon-do club. Educational trips and summer activities are also arranged.
- Recent implementation of supported housing for unaccompanied minors which addresses the specific needs of unaccompanied minors and young refugees.
- Membership of Barnet Partnership Board responsible for commissioning the activities linked to the Prevent objectives and Muslim engagement programme.

Our Mission

Paiwand works in partnership with individuals and agencies to improve the quality of life and promote the physical, social and mental wellbeing of members of the Afghan community living in the UK. It also works to integrate members of the Afghan community into British society whilst promoting and maintaining the cultural identity of the Afghan community in the UK.

Paiwand acts as a platform to enhance equality for the Afghan community and other ethnic groups as well as within British society as a whole.

Statement of Values

Paiwand is underpinned by a set of beliefs and principles that guide all activities and operations and all staff and volunteers embrace these values:

- Give priority to understanding and addressing the needs of the people and community that we serve;
- Provide professional services which promote the cultural values of both the Afghan and wider community;
- Maintain professionalism and strive continuously for superior quality;
- Respect privacy and confidentiality among staff and volunteers;
- Adhere to equal opportunities and recognise and respect cultural diversity;
- Involve all staff and volunteers in decision making;

Our Aims

Our aims are set to reflect the aims of our community. Each year our trustees review our objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect our aims. In carrying out this review the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Paiwand exists to provide appropriate cultural services for members of the Afghan community whose needs cannot be met by mainstream service providers. We respond to the health, social, cultural, educational and employment needs of community members, in particular those who are socially excluded.

Our principal objectives are:

1. To improve the quality of life and promote the physical, social and mental wellbeing of members of the Afghan community living in the UK;
2. To integrate the Afghan community into wider UK society;
3. To enhance social inclusion and assist in the reduction of health inequalities, social exclusion and poverty currently experienced by members of the Afghan community;
4. To work collaboratively with other Afghan organisations at borough, sub regional, regional and national levels to improve services and quality of life for the Afghan community;
5. To be financially sustainable and viable as a social enterprise.

Services & Activities

Information, Advice and Advocacy Services

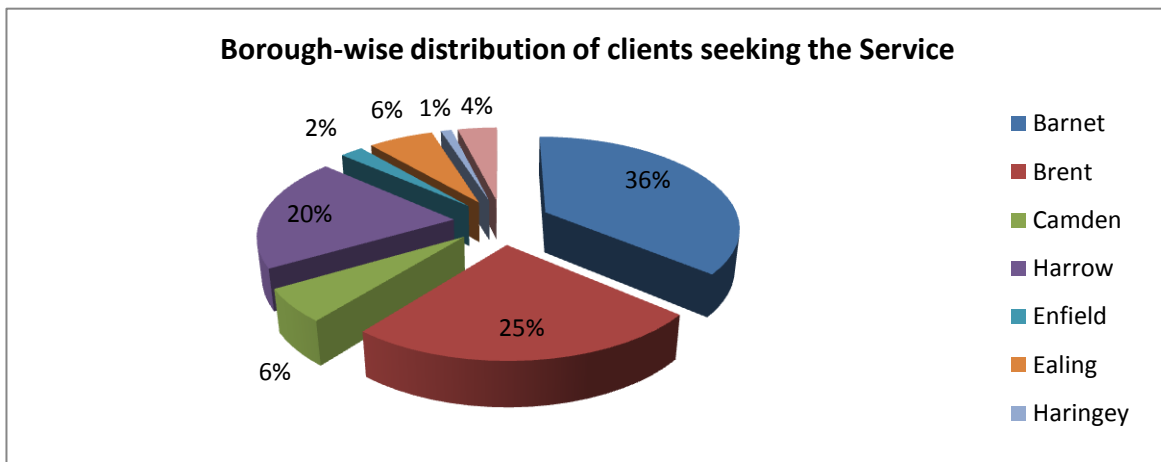
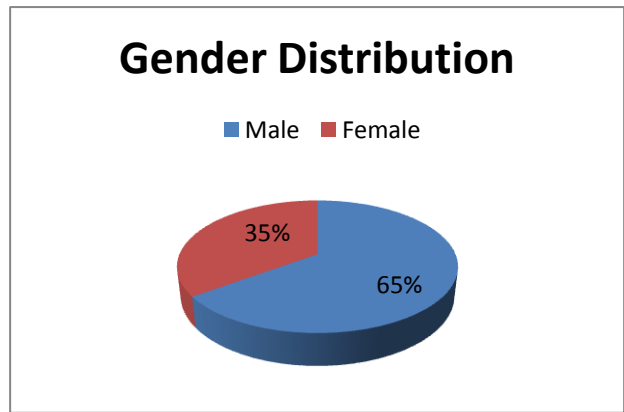
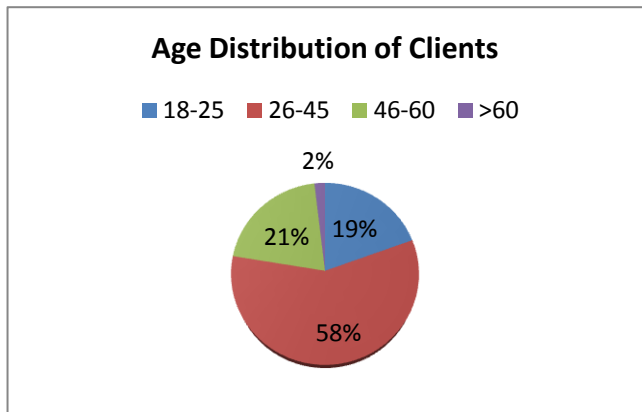
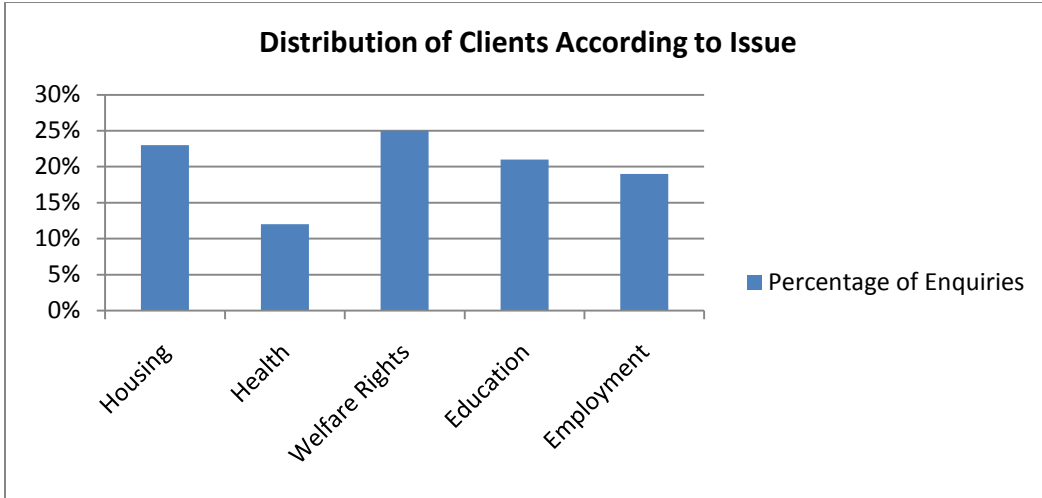
Our aim is to provide appropriate information, advice and advocacy to help Afghan Refugees and Asylum Seekers access their rights; understand their responsibilities; represent their views; and ensure everyone has the ability to influence the decisions that affect them.

The services are provided at the Edgware Community Hospital and Whitefield School as well as from Paiwand offices in Brent and Barnet to 750 Afghan refugees living in Barnet, Brent, Camden, Haringey, Harrow, Hillingdon, Ealing and Enfield. The project also accepts referrals from partner organizations such as local refugee forums, schools, children's' centres, Connexions and other partner organisations.

We have been able to explain "the system" to recent arrivals and to help them access support. The service also includes letter writing, accompanying clients to local schools, job centre plus or other agencies; attendance at tribunals, and form filling. Our Community Advocates liaise on behalf of

clients with statutory bodies such as local PCT's, Job Centre Plus, Housing departments, local schools and others.

The following charts show the distribution of clients using the Paiwand Information and Advice Service broken down into the issue about which they require assistance, geographical location, age and gender.



Education

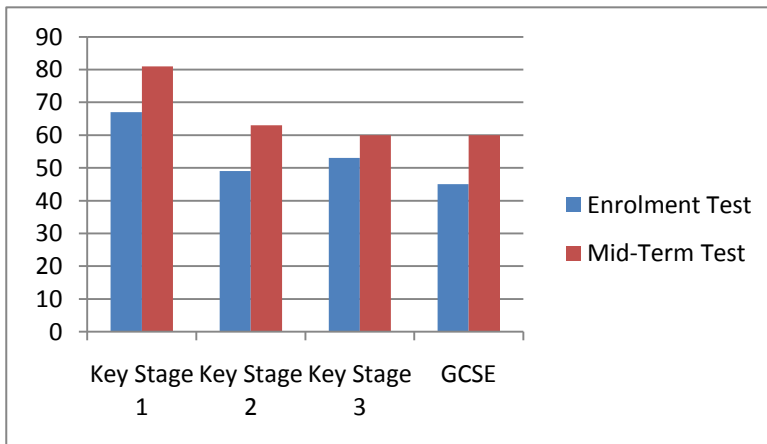
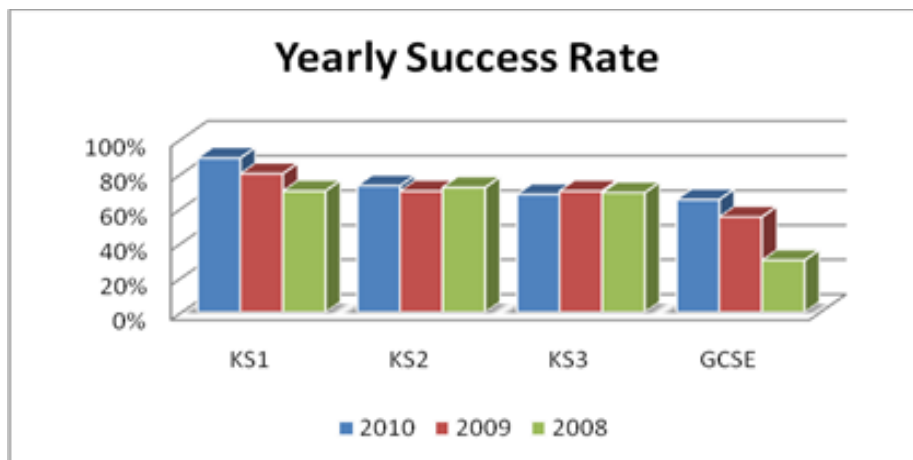
Our goals for the Education Project remain to:

1. Improve the academic abilities of every single pupil;
2. Improve pupil's confidence, assertiveness and educational maturity;
3. Improve learning skills of our children in core subjects to enable them to integrate and benefit more from their regular school education; and
4. Encourage pupils to take a more active part in mainstream school activities.



Supplementary Education

Over 350 students attend our two Supplementary Schools (Whitefield School and London Academy) for 33 weeks of the year. They attend booster classes in Mathematics & Science for Key Stages 1, 2, 3, and 4; Citizenship and Language. 32 seasonal workers and volunteers in total have been involved in running and managing the school. Throughout the year students also received one to one support in their homework. They improved their linguistic and academic skills in a safe environment which helped them settle into the British mainstream education system more quickly; increased their confidence and self-esteem; and enhanced their problem-solving skills.



The students were assessed when they enrolled in September, and again mid-term, in December. The chart below shows the percentage increase in the success rate between these two tests. The chart proves that higher results are achieved by attending our schools.



Partnership Work and Bi-lingual Support

As in previous years we have successfully signed service level agreements for the 2009/10 academic year with local schools including London Academy and Whitefield School. The agreements enabled us to provide in-class support to refugee children on week days, and have access to the classrooms free of charge on Saturdays. By providing bi-lingual support two days a week to London Academy and Whitefield School we actively took part in and supported schools to meet their targets on education.

Harrow Weekend School

The Harrow Weekend School is a partnership led by Harrow Borough Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (“EMAS”) and involves a broad spectrum of partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors. These partners are Adult Community and Family Learning, Paiwand, EMAS, Integrated Early Years and Community Services, partly funded by Harrow Council, John Lyons Charity, Somali Cultural and Educational Association (SCEA), and Whitefriars First & Middle School. All of whom sit on the steering group which meets regularly to review the progress of the Weekend School. The school is fully run and managed by Paiwand on day to day basis.

The school started in April 2009, for a 12 week period over the school summer term, following which it was fully evaluated by an independent researcher from “Contin You”. The interim report suggested that the school’s initial aims and objectives were successfully met, and that it could not only continue, but be duplicated across the borough. The number of students soon increased from fifty to eighty in September 2009, then to one hundred in January 2010. Assessment has been in line with National Curriculum indicators. A range of other benefits have also been provided, such as improvements in relationships, behaviour, health and motivation.



The school is ideal for disadvantaged young people aged between 6 and 11. Those assisted are from all backgrounds in the borough, but mainly conform to the national ‘Narrowing the Gap’ definition of disadvantaged. The young people are recruited by referrals from local school clusters.

The Weekend School is open between 10:00 am – 2:30 pm on Saturdays. Each of the six classes is supported by a professional, UK trained, tutor and has a Teaching Assistant who also monitors the students during their breaks. Health & Safety is paramount and the school operates to the highest standards in all areas of child protection. Attendance is compulsory on Saturdays but optional on Sundays when the emphasis is on personal, social and cultural development. On this day the lessons include sports, religious education and home languages (dependent upon the background of the children but probably Somali, Farsi, and Pashto). This program enables the children to get to know others from different backgrounds and make new friends.

At HWS lessons are fun and innovative; incorporating games, role play, competitions, skits, chants, and other learning methods, in order to maintain the motivation and interest of the young people.

The school is working towards meeting the DCSF Guidance to schools on the duty of promoting community cohesion. The contribution from schools involves:

- 'Teaching, learning and curriculum' - includes helping children and young people to learn to understand others, valuing diversity and promoting shared values.
- 'Equity and excellence' - includes ensuring equal opportunities for all, removing barriers to participation in learning, and eliminating variations in outcomes for different groups.
- 'Engagement and extended services' - includes providing opportunities for children, families and the wider community to interact and achieve with other groups.



ESOL Classes

ESOL Classes are run entirely through selfless input and support from our committed and highly professional volunteers. Classes are held on pre-elementary level 1 and 2 and attended mainly by female members of the community. A free crèche service is available for parents with small children. 46 adults of different backgrounds were enrolled and attended ESOL classes. An ESOL class was also specifically tailored to unaccompanied minors aimed at providing extensive language teaching to support their college tuition.

Housing Project

The Housing Scheme is a social enterprise service developed by the Paiwand and aims to relieve the housing shortage for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the UK. Over 1,000 of these young people are referred to Harrow, Ealing, Hillingdon, Barnet and Brent local authorities.

The overall aim of this service is to provide supported accommodation and associated services to unaccompanied refugee minors in London. The project:

- Provides safe accommodation that encourages mutual respect and care;
- Offers information around healthy living, employment, training and household budgeting;
- Provides an environment for them which is anti-discriminatory, and values diversity;
- Enables young people to acquire the practical skills for independent living; and
- Enables them to effectively integrate into UK society.

Paiwand uses two houses in Harrow and Croydon to provide supported accommodation and other services. Both houses consist of a private garden and separate living quarters for a total of eleven young people. The houses are spacious, decorated to a good standard, and situated in pleasant areas close to public transport and local amenities. Each young person is allocated their own bedroom which is fully furnished. The kitchen, bathroom, downstairs WC, shower room and lounge are shared and all are fully furnished and equipped. There is a separate utility room with washing machine, drier and ironing facilities and a study room equipped



with computers with internet access.

Each property is maintained in accordance with the regulatory safety standards for housing and environmental health requirements. It has up to date NICEIC electrical safety and CORGI gas safety certificates, fire exit signs, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers and fire blanket in the kitchen. There is a carefully monitored referral and admission process.



Each young person receives around six hours of support each week, and has a plan that focuses on all spheres of their life e.g. building skills and resilience to cope with problems when they arise, raising awareness of rights, responsibilities and where to seek help. They also have a career plan, involving short, medium and long term aims; ongoing resettlement support; health education, including personal hygiene; sex education, including contraception; and organising finances. Key Workers aim to support young people in a way that is tailored to them; the pathway plan is done with the young person to agreed timescales and the overall support package is varied according to their needs. They are enrolled in college and their progress is consistently monitored. They are also registered and have full checkups with GP, dentist and optician.

A Youth Worker provides activities and trips allowing cultural cohesion of the young people into British society. With the support of the Youth Workers young people visited London Zoo, the National Portrait Gallery, Trocadero, Southampton, went on a tour of central London etc. They also have the option of free Tae Kwon Do classes and attending the Youth Centre on Wednesday evenings where they are able to socialise with young people from all backgrounds.

Paiwand also works in partnership with social services, local police, Youth Connexions and voluntary sector organisations to provide a holistic service to the young people living in the accommodation.

Youth Project

Aim and Objectives

The Youth Project aims to develop youth activities for young refugees, asylum seekers, and newly arrived people aged 11 to 18 years, taking into consideration language barriers and cultural issues. This is achieved through:

- Facilitating integration by spending time with young people from different refugee backgrounds, therefore learning about British culture and society through peer education;
- Giving young people from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to achieve the “Every Child Matters” outcomes;
- Allowing young people to make new friends and build self-esteem.

Youth Club

There are over 120 young people, from a wide range of backgrounds, though mostly Afghans, registered with the Youth Group. They have enjoyed cooking, board games, basketball, internet and computer games and have competed in 2 football matches. “Rithmik” has worked with the group on music and 2 of the young people have visited the Rithmik recording studio in Mill Hill. They feel they have ownership of the session and are happy to make suggestions and recommendations. The group have enjoyed 2 trips since January; one to Wembley stadium and a 3 day residential trip to YMCA Fairthorne Manor in Southampton.

Drama Group

The 7 young people attending the Paiwand and Attic drama group have achieved a great deal in terms of skills and confidence; self-esteem and presentation skills of all the young people have improved dramatically and they have all made new friends. The young people feel confident to speak out in the sessions and make their own recommendations. In May they enjoyed a performance of 'Huck' at the Southwark Playhouse which was the first experience of live theatre for some of the group and they were very impressed and excited by the trip. The group are working towards a performance about being Afghan girls for Refugee Week.

Paiwand Youth Board

In January 2010 Paiwand organized a Youth Conference which discussed issues the Afghan Youth faced in North West London and recommended services and activities for Paiwand to address the identified issues. The conference also elected 15 young people to the Paiwand Youth Board which was to hold meetings on a regular basis and provide recommendations to Paiwand Board of Trustees on issues and services related to young people; observe provision of services for young people and shadow the Paiwand Board of Trustees in relation to youth projects. The Youth Board is actively involved in reviewing Paiwand's Child Protection Policy and preparing a cultural awareness training pack.

Photography Project

A group of 8 young people 7 of whom were unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan, participated in photography workshops with a professional photographer during the Easter holidays. The workshops involved learning about photographs, how to take a good photograph and trips around central London to inspire and encourage the young people in their photography. The final pictures which the young people chose as their favourites were exhibited at Whitefield School library. The Exhibition gave the young people the opportunity to show off their pictures and gain a sense of pride and confidence from having people see their photos and complement them on an excellent job.

Refugee Week Event – Simple Acts

24 young people working with BRS, Paiwand, Refugee Youth Project and Roots and Wings (arts depot) had the opportunity to perform a variety of acts for Refugee Week at the Arts Depot.

Half Term Trips

The trip to the Imax cinema gave young people from the Grahame Park Wednesday evening social group the opportunity to socialise and participate in a fun activity during half term. There was also a trip to Wembley Park Stadium for young people from Grahame Park and the Paiwand supported accommodation. This was also an opportunity for the young people to become involved with organising a trip for themselves and make new friends.



Sports Activities

Several sports clubs have been formed as part of the Youth Project to give young people the opportunity to engage in positive activities and learn new skills. A total of 157 children and young people enrolled in our football, cricket and

taekwondo clubs. Training sessions are held at Whitefield School, Harrow Teachers Centre, Harrow Leisure Centre and Willesden Green Library. Our under 15s football team is now affiliated with West Middlesex and Hayes Youth Football League.

Football Tournaments

Over 1000 young people from Refugee background and communities in London, South End and Birmingham took part in the Summer 2009 and Winter 2010 football tournaments organised by Paiwand. 14 local Afghan Football teams joined the 7 week Summer Tournament organised at Warren Sports Grounds in Ealing, and 12 football teams played the 7 weeks Winter Football Tournament organised at Barnet Football Club in Edgware. The winner of the Summer Football Tournament was Uxbridge Town F.C. and the winner of the Winter Football Tournament was Azadagan F.C. from South End.



Volunteering at Paiwand

Over 60 volunteers are involved in Paiwand's activities; most of them experienced and qualified people who provide valuable services to the community. Paiwand aims to support them to become fully integrated into the wider community, develop their personal skills and secure paid jobs.

Partnership Work

Partnership with Whitefield School and London Academy

The objectives of the partnership are to:

- Build relationships with the Afghan community by engaging with an established and respected community group;
- Improve educational outcomes and achieve the key outcomes of the "Every Child Matters" Agenda for our Afghan students; and
- Build relationships with parents and carers.

The partnership facilitates the following activities:

- A Saturday School held at Whitefield and London Academy; in return Paiwand supplies volunteer teachers 2 days a week to support Afghan students and liaise with parents/carers.
- Afghan students' meetings held to enhance Student Voice
- Parents'/carers' meetings held to enhance Parent Voice
- Individual meetings held with students/parents to resolve issues

Partnership with Local Community Organisations on Mental Health

The partnership is aimed at establishing the Barnet Multilingual Wellbeing Service. A steering group of representatives from Paiwand, Barnet Refugee Service, Farsophone, Chaines Mental Health, Somali Family Support Group and local NHS established a new consortium aiming to provide mental health advocacy and counseling services to Refugee and Migrant communities in Barnet and neighbouring boroughs.

Partnership with Barnet Refugee Services

The partnership with Barnet Refugee Services is aimed at establishing a joint project on assistance to unaccompanied minors. The partnership involves need identification, development proposals, fund-raising and implementation. The partnership objectives were fully met and the planned activities were carried out satisfactorily.

Partnership with Attic Theatre Company: Many Voices

The objectives of the partnership are to:

- Increase participation and access to arts and cultural activities for disadvantaged children and young people a refugee backgrounds, in particular Afghans.
- Increase life skills and personal 'soft' outcomes and positive, measurable, educational progression e.g. improved performance for the participants.

The partnership runs a weekly drama workshop in term time which has led to performances in school and an outside theatre. The project also increases access to the Arts through theatre trips and has implemented Arts Awards and Jack Petchey Achievement Awards.

Partnership with North West London College

The partnership aims to raise the cultural awareness of students and staff, by providing student advice, mentoring, progression support, social and cultural activities, and more general group and individual pastoral support.

Partnership with Refugee Council

The partnership aims to:

- Provide a Panel Adviser to attend surgeries at Paiwand once a month;
- Offer advice to clients of their rights and responsibilities within the asylum process;
- Undertake work in relation to the client's immigration status;
- Liaise with others involved in the child's life for example social workers or carers;
- Undertake follow-up work which derives from the surgery;
- Share statistical information.

As a pilot the refugee council run a monthly IAG and Advocacy surgery in Paiwand's supported housing to provide the young people with emotional and psychological support and assist with their welfare rights and immigration cases.

Partnership with National Portrait Gallery

The partnership aims to:

- Develop opportunities for Afghan youths to explore themes and topics of interest and ensure that their opinions are considered in informing the Gallery's work;
- Enable creative and innovative learning experiences for young people;
- Be an inclusive, productive and active partnership;
- Establish a sustainable programme of activities across the partnership and beyond;
- Encourage debate and discussion on the nature of portraiture.

Finance Review and Funding

Paiwand relies mainly on grant aid from the donors identified in the current accounts whose support is valued, as well as voluntary contributions of beneficiaries. Paiwand has also started social enterprise activities by providing services to local Social Services, local schools and other stakeholders. In 2009 we have received a loan from London Rebuilding Society to establish the housing project.

Current Funding

We have received the following funding to achieve our aims during the past year:

Awarding Body	Purpose (where specified)
Big Lottery Fund	Salaries of Paiwand's Coordinator, Community Advocate, Admin & Finance Workers. Also covers office rent and part of other running costs.
Barnet Council's Small Grants and John Lyons Foundation	Salary of the Education Project Manager; running cost of SMTS in London Academy; and providing teaching assistance.
Jack Petchey Foundation	Awards Scheme for Young People
BBC Children in Need	Salary of the Youth Worker and cost of arts activities.
Barnet YOF, Harrow YOF, Brent Play Association, Sport England and WNST	Cost of our Arts & Sports Club activities.
Harrow Council	Supplementary School in Harrow and Harrow Weekend School.
Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust	Part of the core costs.
London Borough of Barnet	Muslim Youth Engagement project and prevent activities.
Harrow Children Fund	Cost of children and family learning activities in Harrow.
London Borough of Camden	Salary of the Link Worker for Camden.
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation	Cost of Supplementary Schools.
Mercers' Company	Cost of Supplementary Schools.