

Our work with  
Black and Minority  
Ethnic children,  
young people  
& their families

Believe in  
children



Barnardo's  
North West



Believe  
in CHILDREN

# We believe in children

As part of our 'Enacting Our Vision' policy Barnardo's aspires to do more to meet the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic children, young people and families across the UK. By 'Black and Minority Ethnic' we mean minority ethnic groups discriminated against on the basis of colour.

Black and Minority Ethnic children make up about 17 per cent of Barnardo's service users, compared with 12 per cent of the total UK child population. This means we work with nearly 50 per cent more Black and Minority Ethnic children than might be expected.

We feel this work is vital as almost half of all children from Black and Minority Ethnic communities live in poverty compared with a quarter of white children. There are clearly wide variations in outcomes among members of Britain's Black and Minority Ethnic groups; race is only one strand of a child's identity. But widespread prejudices and structural barriers continue to limit the chances of these children and young people.

Put simply, race is still a critical element in a child's life chances.

## We aim to

Barnardo's North West aims to continue to make a positive difference to the lives of, while increasing the current proportion of, Black and Minority Ethnic children and young people who use Barnardo's services, within the region.

We take a culturally inclusive approach which takes account of culture, religion and tradition within the context of race and gender relations, giving a broader understanding of the issues and its links to children's ethnic backgrounds. Allowing us to provide services that are inclusive, relevant to children's local populations and representative of them.

**'When you help people who mostly can't speak English, you really feel you've done something for them. One person said to me if it wasn't for Barnardo's they would have been homeless and penniless. They would have been completely lost.'**

**tri-lingual Advice and Advocacy Worker**





## How we make a difference

Barnardo's North West wish to continue developing services working with Black and Minority Ethnic communities which:

- Increase opportunities and chances for children, young people and their families
- Involve young people in making decisions about what we do and how we do it
- Assist families in building bridges between different communities in that area
- Make sure all children, young people and their families are able to take part in activities and, whenever possible, run their own
- Support families when they have difficulties to sort out
- Develop people's skills and confidence so they can do as much as possible with their talents, to benefit both themselves and their community
- Working towards meeting Every Child Matters outcomes
- Work in partnership with other community groups and agencies to meet our aims.

## Ajani's story

Ajani is an Asylum seeker, who was referred to the Barnardo's ASHA service. At first Ajani was very unsettled, showed a lack of confidence and wanted support, he was a new learner who really wanted to learn how to speak English so that he could fit in and communicate with people.

Ajani was enrolled onto an ESOL course to help with his English, along with First Aid Training and CV & Interview skills courses. Ajani settled in, made friends and became more confident. His main goal and ambition was to study English in college. Due to the experiences and qualifications he gained through the project, he was able to progress to a higher level English course at Oldham College.

**“Barnardo's Asha Project gave me the chance to learn and gave me the support I really needed when I had no one. I will always be grateful”**

## Working together

We understand the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic children can not be compartmentalised and cover a wide range of complex issues, which can not be met by one single agency.

Our services work with a range of community groups and agencies. This partnership work ensures all the complex needs of young people are met and that the services are embedded in the community. Without this the services would not be anywhere near as successful.

We have introduced a robust outcomes monitoring framework, so that all our services can accurately demonstrate the effectiveness of their work on a year by year basis, while three monthly assessments inform case planning and enable us to evidence improvement in outcomes over the periods of intervention.

We work in partnership with commissioning agencies to raise awareness of key issues and deliver on Every Child Matters targets.



## What Next?

If you believe – as we do – that working in partnership to deliver groundbreaking services can help even more children from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities change their lives, then call Barnardo's North West Services Development Team on **0151 488 1100**.



[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

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