



## **Family Restoration Forum- Partnership**

Family Restoration Forum has been established for 3 years; our client group is Africans & African Caribbean families. We support families and individuals who have settled or just move to Leicestershire as asylum seekers, refugees or family reunions. Activities include advice, information, sharing, welfare rights, employment, education and training, social inclusion, community cohesion, mental health wellbeing, debt and budget management.

### **Briefly describe the experience you wish to focus on in this paper**

The experience I wish to focus on is collaboration and partnership work. Our organisation has worked in partnership with Children and Parents Alliance (CAPTA), a non-RCO organisation and two RCOs: Leicestershire Congolese Mutual Group and the Somali Community.

### **Describe what your RCO did, and what came out of this**

With CAPTA we delivered a joint music project named "Music Fun" and "Drama Group" with young people aged 6 to 18 years old for 6 Six months. The project was to introduce various musical instruments to the young people and train them on how to play keyboards, drums, violin, guitar and xylophone.

- CAPTA provided the space and some of the instruments.
- Family Restoration Forum (FRF) advertised the project within the Congolese and African communities by word of mouth, flyers, texting the youth and electronic mail.
- CAPTA provided the space for the project, which took place twice a month for two hours per session at 28 Saxby Street, Leicester.
- FRF raised the funding to pay for the space. The Chair of FRF was a music teacher in Africa and taught the lessons.
- CAPTA invited a drama / dance teacher who had some sessions with the children.
- The delivery of the project was a joint effort where each organisation complemented each other.
- The negative impact of the project was the lack of funding as the chair of FRF used his personal funds; also transport was an issue as picking up of the children for the sessions was dependant on volunteers.
- The positive impact was good team work between both organisations.

A total of 30 young people participated and at the end of the project a musical show was put on at the Jewry Wall Museum Leicester and photographs of the project were displayed there. A Music CD was also produced.

- The impact of the project on the young people was some of the participants continued to play instruments in different churches (Whetstone Baptist Church,

Central Baptist Church) and in the youth camp that took place later in the year (summer camp 2009 and 2010 in Leicester.)

- A choir was born out of the project and young people sang regularly at the Whetstone and Central Baptist church, also entertaining the Sunday children's club at both communities.
- Verbal feed back was given by the parents and attendants of the Musical show. Congratulation cards have been received as well, which formed part of the feed back and encouragement.
- Young people said to me it was "fabulous, fantastic, ecstatic, Can we do it again?". The families reported to me saying: "well done, it was uplifting and very well organised, congratulations for entertaining the children..."

Family Restoration Forum also works jointly with Leicestershire Congolese Mutual Group and the Somali community supporting members of the community with advice and information on various issues, signposting clients to appropriate agencies and giving moral, emotional, psychological and spiritual support as we work with faith leaders as well (Christian and Muslim).

### **What problems and barriers did your RCO face in doing this, and how did you overcome or try to overcome these?**

- The two organisations worked very well as a team.
- The problems and barriers faced were:
  - funding (FRF had to raise money),
  - time keeping (the children were late and we had to wait for them to get ready),
  - transport (we used our own car and petrol),
  - immigration issues (with immigration issues families were not in the mood to help themselves),
  - language barriers (families still have problems with language)
- We tried as much as we could to overcome these by joint work (CAPTA: Children and parent Alliance had funding), providing transportation where necessary and also helping with time keeping and committing participants to a certain number of sessions to be attended.

### **What are your tips for other RCOs considering doing something similar?**

As I did not have a problem with the partnership, my tips for other RCOs are:

- **Get enough funding:** Both organisations used money they had for the project and it was not sufficient. Organisations did not have a budget, we relied on donations in kind and the little money we had.
- **Have a time line.** We planned meetings regularly. To fulfil the objectives set by the organisation, we needed good planning for the events, training, shows, and various activities.

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