



PRESS RELEASE

22nd July 2016

– VCF congratulates Unity in Vision (UinV) on the official launch of their community office in the Borough of Poole seeking to enhance BME Children Safeguarding Services within Dorset

VCF offered their congratulations to UinV on a successful office launch celebration on Thursday evening (14th July) officially opening their new office in the Borough of Poole at the Parkstone United Reform Church (PURC) centre.

This is the next step in regard the VCF/UinV Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in March to begin to implement VCF's family & community engagement models into Dorset for early intervention and prevention. Particularly in view of the growing demand for children's services and advocacy within the Dorset BME community. VCF will also be supporting social workers to celebrate their achievements and promote innovative direct work with children and families in London. This is the work that we will also deliver in partnership with UinV, taking the opportunity to liaise with social care professionals directly to highlight the importance of their role for children and families when faced with issues such as FGM, forced marriage, domestic abuse and radicalisation matters.

The UinV office launch was attended by Mark Phillips PURC centre manager and the Mayor of Poole, Councillor Xena Dion who entered the spirit of the celebrations directly by agreeing to experience wearing a saree (see below). An audience comprising of 23 ethnic backgrounds heard of the UinV activities within Dorset followed by a performance of Surya's Story by Surya Arts highlighting the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, as we save a thought for the children.



UinV Committee with PURC manager and Mayor



UinV Chair, Hon. Chair, Secretary

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- **The Victoria Climbié Foundation (VCF)** The Victoria Climbié Foundation was established by Mr and Mrs Climbié (Victoria's parents) to campaign for improvements in child protection policies and practices and to ensure effective links & coordination between statutory agencies, care services and communities. www.vcf-uk.org
- VCF contributed to the Victims' Taskforce led by Sir Keir Starmer QC and Baroness Lawrence during 2014 which published its taskforce report and recommendations for improvements to the criminal justice system to cater for the rights, protection and support for victims (February 2015).
- VCF currently leads and chairs the National Working Group on Child Abuse linked to Faith or Belief; supporting victims and witnesses is one of four key strands for the group, which comprises representatives from statutory, voluntary, community and faith sectors, and individuals with specialist knowledge and expertise <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/action-plan-to-stop-child-abuse-in-the-name-of-faith-or-belief>
- Voices from the front line: supporting our social workers in the delivery of quality services to children – a research paper by the Victoria Climbié Foundation and HCL Social Care to explore the current social work system and its ability to achieve the expectations of the Children and Families Act 2014. <http://vcf-uk.org/vcf-calls-for-urgent-action-in-new-research-voices-from-the-front-line/>
- 'Engaging children and families; the role of advocacy within child protection – a pilot study' (September 2015) offers an evaluation of VCF advocacy casework <http://vcf-uk.org/vcf-offers-a-genuine-approach-to-engaging-with-children-and-families/>.
- 'My Languages Matter; the multilingual outlook for children in care – A White Paper. The Victoria Climbié Foundation UK and Mothertongue explore the impact of linguistic and cultural heritage through child protection work. Are we effectively considering the relevance of these themes when we are making decision in the best interest of the child <http://vcf-uk.org/my-languages-matter-the-multilingual-outlook-for-children-in-care/>
- **Unity in Vision (UinV)** Unity in Vision is a multicultural, interfaith voluntary group working on uniting the people/families of Pan Dorset (Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset) through social/educational/consultation projects working in partnership with a range of service providers. Members are from the local/national BME and wider community circles, from 23 Ethnic backgrounds.

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