

## **BME & Migrant Advisory Group; Safeguarding Children and Young People**

**Title: Terms of reference (Draft written April 2017)**

### **Purpose and role of the group**

The broad purpose of the group is to focus on the child protection/safeguarding needs of children and young people in migration and within ethnic minority communities. This focus aims to ensure that the rights, care and protection of migrant and BME children are upheld and that best quality services are delivered to these children and young people.

The responsibilities of the group are to monitor and to work to improve the quality of care for these children and young people, through supporting research, campaigning and promoting professional and practitioner communication and networking, and through publication and dissemination online and in print media.

The group was established by VCF and UEL\_CSQR in autumn 2016 and the group was launched at the Houses of Parliament on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **Membership**

Membership of the group includes professionals with interest and expertise in the group's purpose, aims responsibilities, representing key interests across sectors, together with representation from service user groups. Membership will therefore consist of representation of statutory and charitable sector organisations in health and social care and academic/research. Membership will have practice, policy and academic expertise in the following areas: child refugees and unaccompanied minors, faith and culture, and responses to radicalisation. It will be ensured that the membership has expertise at key levels: practitioner, legal, social policy, psychological and social.

Membership will be restricted to 22 members in total. The period of membership will be 5 years in the first instance, which can be extended by mutual agreement for a further 2 years

### **Review**

The group will review the relevance and value of its work and the terms of reference after 12 months, initially, and thereafter every 2 years.

### **Working methods**

The group will adopt a committee approach to structure meetings. There will be an emphasis on shared learning through discussion. Subgroups will be convened, each with a nominated lead, for the key areas: unaccompanied minors/children and young people in migration; faith and culture (including witchcraft and spirit possession and FGM) and radicalisation. Subgroups will generate activities designed to promote the aims and objectives of the group, through research and its dissemination (e.g. seminars), networking, and campaigning. Subgroup leads will report on activities and developments to each group meeting. Subgroups may co-opt individuals with relevant expertise for focused or longer term membership of the sub group.

### **Meetings**

The Group will meet 4 times a year, and UEL\_CSQR will host the meetings. UEL\_CSQR will organise and chair meetings for the first 12 months. The chair for subsequent years will be decided by the group. Topics for the agenda will be generated by standard agenda, and all group members will be

able to nominate items for the agenda through notifying the group chair. Meeting papers will be sent to group members by email 1 week before the date of the next meeting.

Non-group members will be invited to the meetings, usually to present on or address a specific agenda item, where the group wishes to draw on experiences and expertise. Sub group leads and all members may recommend such individuals or representations of organisations to the Chair

Secretariat for the group will be provided by VCF and UEL\_CSQR

### **Sharing of information and resources**

Sharing of information and resources will be online, initially through the websites of the two founder organisations, VCF and UEL\_CSQR who will be responsible for facilitating the site. The first year group meetings will consider how best to disseminate information, including use of social media, email lists, publications, briefing papers, and so on.