**Salford CVS Conference 14th September 2022**

**Room**: Barton Lounge, 2nd Floor

**Workshop facilitator:** Kush Chottera, Europia

**Panel speakers**:

* Mel Safari, LinguaGM
* Victoria Key, Salford City Council (Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Liaison Officer)
* Manson Yiu, Salford Hongkongers CIC
* Abdul Hafeez Siddique, The Flowhesion Foundation

**Making Salford a home from home** – From Gypsy / Roma / Traveller communities to more recent arrivals such as British Nationals from Hong Kong, Salford is becoming a more diverse place – so how can we work together to support existing and emerging communities to feel at home in Salford?

Kush introduced himself and the session and invited the audience to reflect for 60 seconds on ‘What makes a home for you?’

Delegates shared what home means to them

**Mel Safari – LinguaGM**

Mel has worked in NHS and Voluntary sector as a Psychologist, CBT Therapist and Co-founder of LinguaGM. Mel wants to improve access to Mental Health and linguistic services. First language support is crucial and access is limited and restricted. Mel gave the example of a French speaker who went to medical appointment and had no interpreter and no support. What can we do about this? We need to invest in teams and in the next generation to ensure a sustainable, long-term wider solution to providing bilingual practitioners. Need more community asset buildings and spaces that feel more connected to the locality we live in.

**Victoria Key, Salford City Council (Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Liaison Officer)**

Victoria works with the Traveller community based at the Duchy Road Traveller’s site in Salford. There are around 30 to 40 tenants and 50 to 70 children living at the site. Most children attend school up to the age of 11 but do not go on to secondary, college or university education. There is often a lack of understanding of what the community wants and not all LA have designated sites where the communities can live. Sites are often located in areas of low social value e.g. next to a tip and Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities are not integrated within the wider community. There can be social and financial exclusion e.g. not being able to get insurance to insure belongings. There is a lack of trust within the community towards authorities and other organisations. It is important to work with the community and go on site to see how we can help them feel more integrated.

**Manson Yiu & Pong Yan, Salford Hongkongers CIC**

In 2019, mass protests took place in Honk Kong in response to an extradition bill. In 2020, a new national security law passed which meant people could be arrested and imprisoned without trial. The only choice for many people in Hong Kong was to move to the UK. As a result a lot of the people from Hong Kong have PTSD and lack trust in authorities and people. Salford HongKongers has helped many families settle in Salford. People often have no money and if they do not have a visa cannot access public funding. The organisation provides Wellbeing Counselling, cultural services and job support. The UK is very welcoming but people may find it hard to access services and get jobs. The community want to integrate and contribute to society. Salford HongKongers’ culture team would welcome the opportunity to work with other organisations to connect people from Hong Kong with other local communities to share and learn each other’s culture.

**Abdul Hafeez Siddique, The Flowhesion Foundation**

Abdul is a Muslim Chaplin; he began his studies at a seminary in Bolton aged 10 and graduated aged 17. Home to Abdul is where he feels valued and can express himself. Abdul is a qualified social worker and as part of his studies completed a research piece looking at what community means to the South Asian Muslin community. One interviewee described ‘only seeing one white person all week’ – this is what happens when communities become segregated. Abdul explained the theories of Bonding Capital and the Bridging Capital from the book Bowling Alone.

*Bonding Capital – the glue that keeps certain communities together*

*Bridging Capital – how we engage with people who are different to me*

We need to rethink the way we see society and how we view home. It is important, to make Salford a home from home, to learn about the different cultures in the city. The Flowhesion Foundation have worked with the South Asian Pakistani community doing different activities e.g. delivering culturally appropriate meals. They have also ran netball sessions on the weekend for girls who could not attend after school sports because they attend the mosque in the evenings. We need to learn the value of people’s culture and identity. We are all connected in the digital world but not in the real world.

**Questions and comments:**

* Arts and culture are a great way of bridging and bringing a mix of communities together.
* Food can be a good icebreaker
* It can be hard to reach out to other groups within the community and to interact both ways.
* Integration is a two way process, need to learn from other communities.
* Do we feel comfortable to encroach on other people’s space? What is appropriate in some cultures is not appropriate in other cultures.
* Go through community champions to reach different communities and people from within communities should go out and bring people in.
* Home is asking what is important to you.
* Health and Wellbeing centre in Pendleton - lack of diversity at the centre and the expectation is people will come to us; the action is to go out and welcome people.
* Media City – Talk English café - what can we do to make people feel welcome and feel like home to everyone.
* Why are we not bringing together these communities and training people.

**Actions**

* To go out and welcome people - we are here / how can we work together
* Can we help you feel comfortable – what can we do to make it home for you
* The problems at the bottom of society and within minority areas are the same problems as elsewhere it is about talking and awareness raising.