

AFRICA ADVOCACY FOUNDATION (AAF)

Agnes Baziwe
Chief Executive

Who we are:

- Africa Advocacy Foundation is a registered charity established in 1996 with the aim of promoting health, education and other opportunities for disadvantaged African and other BME people mainly in London.
- We support and empower some of the most marginalised individuals who often feel they have no active part to play in the society.
- This includes identifying appropriate pathways to enable our beneficiaries to address issues i.e. isolation, poverty, ill-health etc. leading to independence and better quality of life.

Our main activities include:

HIV Programme; This includes:

- Community awareness and prevention
- HIV testing clinic
- Family support (young carers with parents living HIV.
- Peer support services

Training:

- Community volunteer training
- CACHE accredited training in Health and Social care
- Job skills training including IT
- Contraception awareness training
- FGM training for frontline professionals

Female Genital Mutilation

- Children and family support
- Training for FGM Community Champions
- Group support and counselling for women with personal experiences of FGM
- Faith leaders and Men specific discussions on FGM
- Community awareness campaigns
- Outreach, 1:1 advice, information, guidance and referrals
- Referrals to statutory services and others

Method of delivery

- Community outreach: sister circles, madrassas centres, cultural centres.
- Community awareness workshops tailored to the language of the people e.g. Somali, Swahili, Yoruba, Arabic.etc
- Training of champions of different ages, faith and beliefs
- Young people from practising communities
- Survivors of FGM
- Faith leaders as champions
- Men from practicing communities

Community organisations

engaged:

Southwark faith based groups:

- Camberwell Islamic Centre SE5
- BECA Masjid SE15
- Old Kent Road Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre SE1
- Woolworth Methodist Church SE5
- Mountain Movers Chapel International SE17
- The Crypt St Peters SE17
- Family Life Church Old Kent Road SE1
- Divine Connection International Peckham SE15
- Shekinah Ministry in Camberwell SE5
- Christ Church Blackfriars SE1

Continued:

Other community groups:

- Aina Women Group in Peckham
- Southwark Somali Association
- ActionPlus Foundation
- Ethnic Health Foundation
- Involved in Violence against women and girls forums

**Number of Southwark residents directly supported
2014/15**

- 243 women aged between 16- over 60
- In total across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham
861 people.

What we have learnt

- Lack of knowledge on the health effects of FGM
- Feeling of interference without insight into issues
- Lack of FGM specialist knowledge making it difficult for victims to seek appropriate advice and support.
- Lack of trust as a result of communities feeling targeted.
- Need for training and education within practising communities
- Need for training for frontline professionals
- Need for appropriate resources to facilitate learning in the community

Our Contact details:

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