



ANNUAL REPORT 2014- 2015

Sangini – *a friend*

Registered Charity number 1124769

April 2015

Sangini

Sangini in Hindi means 'a friend'. It is a women led, multi-cultural organisation with a focus to

Improve the quality of women's lives by increasing their physical, mental and spiritual health and well-being, through artistic, educational, cultural and recreational activities that also celebrate cultural diversity'.

Background

2002: A group of women met regularly to support each other through sharing, talking and listening to each others' experiences. Very soon they realised that this had a positive affect on them and the idea was borne to take this experience to women more widely in Sunderland. That was when Sangini came into being.

Ten years on, today Sangini has evolved into an organisation with credibility, vision and capacity to deliver its work to highest professional standards.

About us

Our Values:

- The well being and health of all women
- Empowering and uplifting minority women and excluded women
- Learning, enjoyment, creativity and development through the arts
- Promoting inclusion, integration and participation through the arts
- Challenging the inequality and invisibility of women
- Making a difference

Our Vision:

There will be increasing number of empowered BME (Black and minority ethnic) women and other currently excluded women involved in all aspects of civil and civic life, they will be influencing policies and recognized as decision makers in the mainstream.

By the year 2015 BME women and currently excluded women in Sunderland and wider will be healthier and have more confidence in expressing their identity

Governance and Delivery

Sangini's governance is led by diverse group of leading women from different social, cultural, ethnic and professional backgrounds who provide the forward direction for the overall work. The membership draws on the range of expertise that varies from the community development, mainstream healthcare provision, the cultural sector to sustainable development. The level of experience represented includes high-level project management, strategic planning, financial management, business planning, fundraising and policy advocacy. It is this collective experience that we aim to draw upon when we develop and deliver our activity.

The **effectiveness of delivery** is maintained by monitoring and evaluating all the projects, and provides essential lessons learnt for the next phase of the development.

All the work is designed and delivered in partnership with its users, stakeholders and wider community groups, thus harnessing good working relationship across the sector.

Volunteers are the life-line of this organisation and they provide crucial support to ensure that the organisation's work carries on with equal effectiveness. In turn, they gain valuable work based experience that has often contributed towards their employment.

Chair's Summary

It gives me great pleasure to present this report, a general account of our work in 2014 – 2015.

It has been another successful year with members working very hard to ensure that we are working to make a difference in the lives of women and children living in Sunderland and the wider North East, building confidence among communities with new ideas and partnerships and develop new partnerships. All of this has helped us to achieve our goals as set out in our charitable objectives.

Here is a brief summary of our work undertaken during the past year:

Stories from our Sisters In Sunderland:

This was one of the largest projects to-date that we had undertaken whereby we worked with a wide variety of partners as well as women from across the world who have settled into Sunderland.

We completed this big project with a very successful launch in June which was attended by the Lord Mayor of Sunderland and the Deputy Mayor of South Tyneside, local councillors, funders, local community groups, artists, museums, arts organisations and of course, most importantly – the women from Sunderland.

This project culminated in a public exhibition at Sunderland museum, a book of the life stories of women who migrated to Sunderland, a website and lots of crafts work by the women.

As part of this project, we also organised a trip to Black Cultural Archives, London to learn about how African communities in London went about archiving and preserving their history of migration.

Sisters of Sunderland: This is a radio based project and a continuation of Stories from our Sisters in Sunderland funded by the Crime Commissioners Fund and supported in partnership by Spark FM. This project focuses on working with women to tell their stories on the radio, but also talk about domestic violence among the various communities in Sunderland. We have been holding art sessions at Thornhill Community Room, based at the Thornhill School with Miki Zea and radio shows with Julie Watson. This is an example of sustainable work and this is how we like to ensure that the hard work of our members is continuing in some form or the other. We aim to further continue this project and reach out to younger women in future where the notion of abuse and violence is prevalent, yet hidden.

International Women's Day: This is an important for Sangini and as always we marked this event with lots of activities at the International Bangladeshi Centre, Sunderland. At least 150 women from all walks of life attended this event and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Oriental Museum: We were pleased that we had an opportunity to develop partnership with one of the key museums in the north east that has huge collection of artefacts from South Asia. As part of this, the members received training in archiving, conservation and showed some of their personal objects in an exhibition at the museum.

Participatory workshops with Young People: Our engagement with young people remains a constant feature and we delivered participatory workshops, involving up to 250 young people. During the past year, we worked with Barbara Priestman School, Sunderland and Browny Academy, Durham and conducted workshops in various multi-cultural arts and crafts including Indian food.

Bob Watters award: We contributed to the fundraising of this award in South Shields by sponsoring a table at the awards night. This award is to help an emerging artist to take on a month long residency in a South Shields studio that would help their professional development as an artist for future. It was a very successful evening and as our work is largely working with artists, we feel proud to have been part of this creative intervention.

Sunderland BME Network - We continued to work with Sunderland BME Network and played a role in the ongoing strategic management of Sunderland BME Network through its role at board level. This allows Sangini to work in strategic partnership with other agencies across Sunderland.

Sustainability of the organisation is at the forefront of our work and this will become a key focus of our work to ensure that Sangini continues to exist and achieve its vision to make a difference in women's lives.

Cost saving is as real to Sangini as many other organisations. With this in mind, Sangini will move its administrative base to South Shields, but will continue to work in Sunderland. We will have a base at the Thornhill Community Room where we aim to provide drop in sessions, conduct meetings etc., but we will now broaden our work across Tyne & Wear. We plan to work with women in South Shields with new partners and help strengthen women's voice across Tyne & Wear.

We plan to focus on the key issue of 'Violence and Abuse among women and girls' and work strategically with other organisations across the North East, such as Halo in Teesside and Angelou Centre, Newcastle.

Sangini is deeply indebted to its members who have contributed tirelessly and without their support it would not have been possible to carry out the work as a collective. Some of these members have now departed due to various personal reasons. We would like to thank them for their valuable contribution in helping to shape Sangini's work through their advice and guidance.

We wish to give special thanks to – Shruti Jain who has worked tirelessly and was the key figure in helping to develop and deliver many of our projects. Maggie Perry – an ardent volunteer and we remain indebted to her astute wisdom and advice

Clara Shields

Susan Mahal

Miki Zea

Matt Henderson

Spark FM, Bridget Hamilton, Lauren and Thornhill School for allowing the use of their community room

A big thank you to Pennywell Community Centre and their staff Bill and Mike and committee member, Edna Rochester who have made us feel at home.

Our achievements in 2014 to 2015

- Completion of Stories from our Sisters in Sunderland
- Engaging with more than 250 women and children in participatory activities
- School workshops in Durham
- New board members recruited
- New partnerships set up, such as Oriental Museum, Durham and Spark FM, Sunderland

Board of Trustees departing:

Shruti Jain

We are looking for new members who can play a role as board members, so if you are interested then please don't hesitate to contact us at anytime after this meeting.

Sangini has played a significant part in the Sunderland voluntary sector and we remain indebted to our partners for their support and belief in our work. The women of Sunderland have remained our true friends and without them we would not be here doing what we are.

We look forward to another year of exciting service that makes a difference in women's lives.

Trustees

Sreelekha Reddy
Margaret Dobson
Padma Rao
Haffejar Khan
Teona Grigolia
Lesley Etherington
Geetha Shreshtha
Remi Barios-Smith
Anita / Gezekile Nkau
Nilima Chowdhry

Chair
Vice-Chair
Treasurer
Board member
Board member
Board member
Board member
Board member
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