Outline

To set up an Asian Women's Group is part of an Outreach objective. Suneeta, Outreach Worker, approached me to aid and develop a research method tool to sought information regard the demand for an Asian Women's Group.

The idea was to send out questionnaires to the main carer’s of the registered Asian families on Estart that are within our catchment area. This was done in order to gather feedback for the demand for an Asian Women's Group and, if interested, what these Asian Women would want from the group.

This report will outline what steps were taken to gather the information and the feedback that was received from the main carer's of the Asian families who are registered with SureStart Smethwick- Uplands & Londonderry.
This particular research has an explorative nature as its aim is to find out the demand for an Asian Women's Group. The Asian Women that this report targets are the Female Main Carer’s of the Asian Families (with children under four) who are registered with SureStart Smethwick-Uplands and Londonderry.

This report will take particular focus on the demand for an Asian Women's Group and what, in particular, Asian Women would want from the group. The intention is to provide a group that Asian Women would want to attend and also have some input into shaping.
A list was produced from Estart, on 02/08/04, which gave all the main carer’s names that are registered with SureStart Smethwick-Uplands and Londonderry.

From this list the respondents would be pinpointed by their name as to whether they are Asian and Women. Unfortunately on the membership form we currently have we does not collect the Carer’s Ethnicity, this created problems as we may have missed a few Asian families or included non-Asian families on the mailing list.

By pinpointing names this would aid us by providing a mailing list in order to send the Asian Women Group questionnaire. Any Asian Families that joined after 02/08/04 was not included on the mailing list.

The Sample size was basically *purposive Sampling*. This is the circumstance as respondents were chosen to fit the need of the project. Therefore the respondents were Asian women who are registered with SureStart Smethwick-Uplands and Londonderry *(See Appendix One for Sample List)*.
The method chosen to carry out this research was a postal questionnaire (see Appendix Two); this was seen as the most appropriate method as it would be too time consuming for one outreach worker to carryout one to one constructed interviews. A covering letter that explained our intentions (see Appendix Three) and a S.A.E for replies were sent along with the questionnaire.

The questionnaire contained closed and open ended questions. The idea was to give the options but condense the amount of feedback as it would be easier to process.

The closed questions did provide set answers; however, each closed question also gave the respondent the opportunity to elaborate on the set answers. This was done by giving the option of ‘Other’ that followed with ‘Please state’, by giving this option it enabled the respondent to provide answers that may not have been provide, this collaborates with providing an Asian Women’s Group that Asian women want.

The open questions gave the respondents an opportunity to provide any explanations or comments they wished to make.

The respondents were assured that any information they provide would remain confidential. The questionnaires were going to be coded; this would enable us to know who filled out the questionnaire, unfortunately this element was forgotten, therefore not done, the questionnaires are completely confidential and we have no idea who completed which questionnaire.

I met with Suneeta to ensure that the questionnaire and covering letter captured what she wanted. The questionnaires were sent out to 65 Asian Women on 02/08/04 and the deadline for replies was 16/08/04.
The results

The questionnaires, covering letter and S.A.E were sent to 65 Asian Women who are registered with SureStart Smethwick-Uplands & Londonderry catchment area.

We had a 7.15 per cent response rate, to give an indication that is 11 responses from 65 potential families. Although this is a low response rate it does give something to work with, however little it may be.

- The Interest -

• Ten families are interested in the Asian Women's Group and one was not as they work nights (See Appendix 4, 5 and 6).

- The Day, Time, Frequency and Location -

Some of the respondents selected several preferred days, times, and frequencies, which would be convenient for them to attend the group (See Appendix 4 and 5 for breakdown and summary).

• The majority preferred Monday or Tuesday as the desired day (See Appendix 7).

• There was no specific time frame preferred. There was an even number for time slots: 11am-12pm, 1.00pm-2.00pm and 2.00pm-3.00pm (See Appendix 8). One person did indicate an evening slot, 9.30pm-11pm.

• Nine of the ten respondents (who are interested in the group) preferred the group to run weekly. Only one chose fortnightly (See Appendix 9).

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1 For Breakdown of results see Appendix 4 and for Summary of Results see Appendix 5.
• Of the suggested locations Dorothy Parkes was quite popular. There were three other suggestions for location, which were Smethwick Library, the SureStart Uplands & Londonderry Base and Thimblemill Baths (See Appendix 10).

-Expectations-

We asked what would be desired from the respondents. Again some respondents selected several answers (See Appendix Eleven).

• The majority of respondent would like the group to be somewhere that they can carry out activities.

• For some Asian Women it will be an opportunity to meet other Asian Women.

• The two respondents who suggested ‘other’ stated that they would like to learn English and to be able to learn new things.

• None of the respondent said it would be a place that they would like to gain support.

-What activities Asian Women would want-

The questionnaire also gave the opportunity for Asian Women in the sample to indicate what activities they would like to undertake. Here, there was also the 'other' option where it could be stated what they would like to do (See Appendix Twelve).

• The majority indicated that they would like to participate in exercise classes and cookery classes, at 7 voting per option.

• 3 indicated they would like advice sessions
• 4 specified 'other'. In this option the respondent was asked to list what that may be. Here is a list of what was stated:

Health
Creative
Mendhi
Sewing
Aromatherapy
Art
Hair and beauty
Threading
Aqua Aerobics
Swimming

(See Appendix Four)

-Comments-

The final part of the questionnaire gave respondents the opportunity to add any additional comments they wished to add.

Only three of the 11 respondents made a statement:

• “I would like to learn new things to do.”

• “I am really happy and excited if something like this would go ahead”

• “I would like to work with S.S, If you’ve got any place’s tell me.”

The first two comments are very encouraging; the final comment shows interest in a possible vacancy within SureStart Smethwick-Uplands & Londonderry. In the future the group may want to organise some sort of training or the Asian Women within the group may want to do some volunteering/sessional work for SureStart Smethwick-Uplands & Londonderry.
In Addition

The deadline for the postal questionnaires to be returned was 16/08/04. Between the period of 16/08/04 to 24/08/04 Suneeta called every respondent on the sample list. This additional method for accumulating responses was done as there was a low response rate to the postal questionnaires and there may be a Language barrier, as everything sent to the respondents was in English. By telephoning the respondents, Suneeta was able to explain and converse more about the intentions of the Asian Women’s Group (for response results see Appendix 13). This was more of an informal conversation; there were no structured interviews out into place.

From the Phone call:

- 26/65, there was no comments or no response.
- 21/65 wanted more information or were interested.
- 7/65 were not interested.
- 4/65 were wrong numbers or had moved.
- 6/65 messages were left.
- 1/65 has an anxiety problem, unable to leave the house.
The number of responses was disappointing from the postal questionnaires, however this maybe because of a language barrier. The response from the phone calls was much more encouraging. Combined they do suggest that there is scope for an Asian Women’s Group.

The next step will be sending out a leaflet outlining the intentions of the group, with a cover letter thanking all who responded to everybody on the sample list. Nearer the time of the start date of the Asian Women’s Group an invitation will be sent out.

Publicity, in terms of posters, at local venues will be done. This will aim to attract those who were not included in the sample list. Also an advertisement has been placed in the SureStart Smethwick-Uplands and Lodonderry monthly activity update.
Lessons Learnt

Here I will outline points or lessons learnt that may need to be considered for future activity research.

- The questionnaires and covering letter was formatted in English and sent to respondents. In this particular instance we knew that this may be a problem as a percentage on the sample list may not read or understand English, consequently a language barrier is caused. To overcome this phone calls were placed to the respondents; asking whether they are interested or not in the Asian Women’s Group.

- The postal questionnaire was a self-completion questionnaire: they are cheaper and quick to administer, there are no interviewer effects or variability and they are convenient for respondents.

- The disadvantages are: no help available if respondent needs help, may not be suitable for some respondents (for example, those who cannot read or write English) and the association with postal questionnaires is a low response rate. Here there was no difference, although the language barrier may have had some impact on this.