



In the West Midlands Region

26/01/2013

Project Shanaz began life in April 2011 as an ACPO initiative to involve more women in *Prevent* engagement activity.

Evidence had been provided through ACPO-commissioned research presented by Cardiff University in late 2010 that Muslim women in particular were the group most disengaged with the police in general and disillusioned with *Prevent* policing in particular. This was identified by the research as being a particular problem because women were often those best placed to notice radicalisation in homes and communities, making them potentially crucial partners in effective delivery of *Prevent*.

Project Shanaz was the ACPO response to this highlighted issue.

Data collection took place across all 43 police force areas of England and Wales, and discussions with practitioners from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Europe and the U.S. also informed our thinking. In England and Wales, perspectives were also sought from women from diverse communities in each force area.

The key findings are showcased in ACPO guidance for police 'Women and *Prevent*' available from end February 2013 by contacting PDUengagement@acpo.pnn.police.uk . However, the overwhelming consensus was that women from all backgrounds were insufficiently engaged with *Prevent*.

Efforts were made to correct the above, a key outcome of which was the Shanaz Network. This is a national platform for women to consult, collaborate

and engage with *Prevent* strategy and delivery. Home Secretary Theresa May highlights the benefits of the Network in the short video message at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe7QVOFDbSo&feature=youtu.be> .

Network structure requires that a community representative from each police force area sits on the national group, ensuring the needs of their area are met nationally and returning learning and resources from other areas to their own. These influential local community representatives were nominated by *Prevent* teams in the force area.

Shanaz Police Champions

Shanaz Police Champions were recruited from each police force area in 2012 to support local Representatives and Members in their area, to ensure they have access to suitable force level steering groups/ IAGs/ consultation committees and to embed them within local *Prevent* partnerships.

Local Authority *Prevent* co-ordinators have been appraised of the Shanaz Network.

The Network has its own **website** at www.shanaznetwork.co.uk which is password-protected (please contact the management committee for access) and which showcases good practice from every police force area in relation to women's engagement in *Prevent*.

The **Launch of the Shanaz Network** took place in 2012 in the West Midlands region (Tally Ho conference facility in Birmingham):

Birmingham also played host to a **regional Shanaz Network event** held in collaboration with international NGO 'SAVE' (Sisters Against Violent Extremism) at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel on 5th December 2012. Police and community representatives were trained in delivery of 'Your Mother', a

DVD based workshop showcasing the unique perspective of the voices of mothers of violent extremists. It was also an opportunity for the Shanaz team to meet regionally and discuss their priorities for 2013 in relation to women's engagement in *Prevent*:

Priorities identified for the regional group for 2013 included:

- Work in partnership with key females in the community to credibly disseminate Prevent messages.
- Move Prevent delivery towards community ownership.
- Provide women with role models/ options/ support networks.
- Encourage women into frontline positions in the community.
- Maximise informal settings such as ESOL classes and coffee mornings to provide Prevent information in a relaxed setting.
- Engage in areas of far-right activity.
- Provide information to new Muslims (convert/revert population)

The Shanaz Network AGM took place on 17th January 2013, and the Network ceased on that date to be ACPO-led. It is now an independent constituted group with an elected committee who we hope will enjoy your continued support and involvement in local and regional *Prevent* delivery.

As it is now community-led, please contact the above management committee directly, or contact the Representatives in your region, in relation to any future Shanaz Network queries.