

BIAS

Community Services

**Responding to the needs of Irish
Children and Families & Irish Elders**

What BIAS Community Services can Offer

BIAS can be commissioned to provide quality, professional services to :

Children and Families

- **Comprehensive Assessment**
(Department of Health 'Protecting Children - A Guide for Social Workers undertaking a Comprehensive Assessment')
- **Keyworking with :**
 - children on Child Protection Register
 - children 'looked after' by the local authority
- **Working with care leavers**
- **Casework** - (1) direct work with children
(2) family work
(3) group work
- **Consultancy** on specific issues relating to work with Irish families
- **Advocacy :**
 - attending case conferences
 - facilitating contact between the child(ren) and their natural parents

Older People

- **Comprehensive Assessments**
(National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990)
- **Casework / Social Work** - (1) direct work with Irish elder(s)
(2) work with housebound elder(s)
(to establish links with Irish community)
- **Advocacy**
 - attending case conferences
 - representing elders' needs
- **Day Care**
 - providing day care places for elders with :
 - (i) Alzheimer's Disease
 - (ii) a physical disability
- **Consultancy**
 - on specific issues relating to work with Irish elder(s)
 - facilitating move to Ireland for Irish elder(s)
(arising out of the assessment of need)

BIAS - Working with the Irish Community

Established in 1978 as a not-for-profit organisation to meet the needs of Irish people in Britain, BIAS is a community development and welfare organisation which is non-party in politics and religion and which provides a practical, essential service to Irish people in London and beyond. The large and diverse Irish community forms a substantial proportion of the resident population in London and is one of the Capital's largest national groups originating from a single overseas country.

As foreigners in a strange land, many Irish people, especially those from rural and Irish-speaking backgrounds, may experience culture shock, alienation and racism. Some of them may have problems with housing, jobs, social security and welfare.

Within the Irish community, there is a disproportionate number of older Irish, people with disabilities and mental ill-health, and homeless people. There are also groups of Irish people who have particular needs, including women, young people, elders, travelling people and the unemployed.

For further information and the opportunity to discuss your commissioning needs,
please contact :

Stan Quirey or
Co-ordinator
Community Services

Karen McHugh
Team Leader
Community Services

at **BIAS Community Services**
Premier House
313 Kilburn Lane
London W9 3EG

Telephone : 0181-968 6914
Fax : 0181-960 5636

BIAS - Working in partnership with local authorities and health agencies

Current Services provided by BIAS

BIAS is currently commissioned to provide services, under the Children Act 1989 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, by :

- **London Borough of Brent Children and Young People Commissioning Team**
 - Block contract to provide children and families social work service to 12 referred cases
- **London Borough of Brent & Brent and Harrow Health Authority**
 - Contracted to provide 36 day care places for Irish elders
- **London Borough of Harrow & Brent and Harrow Health Authority**
 - Contracted to research, within the scope of the NHS and Community Care Act and the Children Act, the community care needs, and the needs of children, within the Irish community in the London Borough of Harrow
- **NHS Ethnic Health Unit**
 - Contracted to improve Irish travelling families access to primary health care services in the London Boroughs of Brent and Harrow

Previous Services that BIAS has been commissioned to provide

- **London Borough of Ealing**
 - Contracted to research, the needs of Irish families and older Irish people, in the London Borough of Ealing
- **Department of Health**
 - Contracted to research the prevalence and level of alcohol misuse within the Irish Community in the London Borough of Brent

What people have said about our services

"... my social worker [from BIAS] really helped me a lot to cope with looking after three kids under 5 years of age. I had just come from Ireland. I knew no-one."

User of BIAS' Children and Families Service

"The organisation continues to provide a much needed service ... It is efficiently run"

Brent Children and Young People Commissioning Team

"....I think its really great that an organisation (BIAS) are considering Travellers needs.....nobody really cares about Irish Travellers....."

Resident of Travellers site in Harrow

"I'm partially blind. I was housebound. The Brent social worker referred me to the Westbrook Day Care Project run by BIAS. It's great. I have a hot meal and I've made some friends at the centre who are from the same part of Ireland - Mayo."

User of BIAS' Day Care Project

"We have been contracting BIAS to provide services to Irish elders for the last 5 years. These services are vital and ensure that the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of the local population are being met."

Brent and Harrow Health Authority