

POWER THE FIGHT– THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION FOR PEACE

Introduction - Our Work and Partnerships

Power The Fight was launched in 2019 in response to the UK's rapid increase in serious violence affecting young people and its disproportionate impact on vulnerable and minority communities. Power The Fight recognises this increase in violence as an urgent but complex public health crisis with multiple and inter-related causative factors including racial injustice, trauma, lack of early intervention, reduction in statutory services and social inequality, all of which have been or will be impacted by the social and economic impacts of Covid-19 (with a disproportionate impact on BAME communities). We promote and advocate for the mobilisation of communities to address these systemic issues, which we deliver via several distinct programmes:

- [specialised training](#)
- developing free online resources such as our [PowerTalks](#)
- engaging with local and national government bodies
- supporting a small number of bereaved families with short-term financial gifts and signposting for housing, debt management and counselling support

Power The Fight promotes the voices of vulnerable and minority communities by acting as the conduit between families impacted by violence affecting young people and decision and policy makers, to create co-designed and co-produced responses to violence and its causative factors. We work to dismantle the structures which disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in society, and to challenge the misconception that violence affecting young people is simply an issue of race, while simultaneously wrestling with the reasons why in some parts of the UK, violence does disproportionately take the lives of people from BAME backgrounds – particularly in London. This means we intentionally examine institutions such as the police, education, health and criminal justice systems through a racial lens, to address current race inequalities and unconscious biases in these organisations.

We recently launched a research report called [Therapeutic Intervention for Peace \(TIP\)](#), focused on **developing culturally competent therapeutic services** for families and peers affected by traumatic loss through youth violence. The research was supported by the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit in recognition of the lack of appropriate provision currently offered in the aftermath of incidents, and the impact of this gap on individuals and communities from racial minority backgrounds.

Across our programmes, Power The Fight aims to develop replicable, evidenced models which can be scaled up to involve a wide range of partners across the UK, with the ultimate objective of empowering individuals and communities to end, and heal from, violence. We seek to address immediate needs whilst working with the authorities and building networks of diverse partnerships in order to catalyse systemic change. Power The Fight was given a London Faith and Belief Community Awards in 2019 under the 'Peace and Reconciliation' category.

Whilst we have organisational links with the Christian church, Power The Fight works compassionately and with commitment to people of all faiths and none. Power The Fight is a member of the Contextual Safeguarding Network based at the University of Bedfordshire, and partners with other Network members including Abianda to deliver training and design community interventions.

Therapeutic Intervention For Peace (TIP) Pilot

The TIP report was launched in September 2020 and Power The Fight's first small pilot therapeutic service began in Autumn 2020 at a secondary school in Lewisham, South East London, building on the report's recommendations.

Power The Fight plans to partner with multiple London boroughs over three years to deliver TIP as a pilot programme comprising several services which will contribute towards decreasing rates of youth violence. We recognise that the Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the pre-existing vulnerabilities which contribute to the likelihood of violence, making our work even more urgent.

Power The Fight aims to show the effectiveness of a culturally competent, co-designed therapeutic service on the mental health of BAME-majority communities, its potential for indirect social and economic benefits, and the possibility to interrupt cycles of youth violence, in order to evidence a model which can be adopted across the UK.

We are already gaining a great deal of interest from several local authorities wanting to partner with us to deliver the TIP pilot and we are committed to building a solid foundation to the model in order to ensure it can be replicated sustainably. We began work with one school in Lewisham in October 2020 where we already had strong relationships, for six months initially, with a strong focus on evidence gathering and evaluation. This six-month project currently has a small part-time team, but the school has expressed that the level of need amongst their students and staff is such that they would welcome a larger time commitment from Power The Fight. We have also already begun conversations with two other secondary schools, one in Lewisham and one in Greenwich, where we have existing relationships, as well as two additional Borough Councils.

Consultancy Roles With Power The Fight

Power The Fight has been awarded short-term funding to work in the three secondary schools described above from mid-January to the end of March 2021.

Power The Fight is therefore seeking expressions of interest from culturally competent and qualified individuals for the following contracted consultancy roles. Contracts would be for 2.5 months initially with the possibility of extension if additional funding is secured. We are also open to a secondment arrangement with a partner organization.

3 x Clinical Psychologists 2 days per week (2.5 month contract from January – March 2021) £31.25 per hour

Therapeutic Youth Practitioner 1-3 days per week (2.5 month contract from January – March 2021) £14.06 per hour

Experience in local schools and/or NHS commissioning groups and/or local councils and/or third-sector youth service providers is desirable for all roles.

All Power The Fight consultants will be subject to Enhanced DBS checks before working within the schools, and will be expected to abide by the schools' safeguarding procedures at all times.

Project Structure and Activities

Power The Fight's Clinical Lead will oversee the delivery and clinical governance of therapeutic services as well as ensuring clinical supervision for all delivery staff.

Therapeutic project activities will be co-designed by the therapeutic team with staff and students in each school based on observed levels of need, as well as social distancing requirements as the term progresses. These are likely to include one-to-one therapeutic sessions with young people and parents, group workshops with students and with families, training for school staff and presentations for small groups which will be co-delivered with students.

Training sessions and other activities will also be adapted for online delivery if necessary, but our preference is to deliver face-to-face work in line with social distancing guidelines (for example limiting the number of external visitors to the school in one day, working with smaller groups, only working with one year group at a time).

Each role will receive clinical supervision. Clinical Psychologist roles may be required to provide clinical supervision for other members of staff.

If you are interested in the role described above, please send your CV and a covering letter (with details of two referees) to Lisa Harrison, Power The Fight Projects Manager – lisa@powerthefight.org.uk Informal interviews will take place in early January 2021 for a mid-January start date.