

Greenwich BME Forum

Action Plan 2010

Overall Objective of Greenwich BME Forum

To work strategically to increase the influence, representation and active engagement of all BME voluntary sector groups and their communities in Greenwich in the decisions and policies that affect them.

Key Outcomes for 2010

1. BME third sector organisations in Greenwich actively, and collectively, influence at least 1 priority issue/policy area in each of the following sectors: education & youth; employment; older people; housing; and health (see issues prioritised below)
 - a. Effective relations established with at least 5 relevant public body policy/decision makers.
 - b. Effective consultation and feedback mechanisms established between and amongst BME organisations and public bodies.
2. At least 40 BME organisations in Greenwich are more informed about policies, decisions and opportunities impacting on their work and their communities, and are able to act on this information in a timely and effective way.
3. Increased collaboration between at least 5 BME organisations in Greenwich on common goals, services, funding or resources.
4. BME Forum represents and involves a greater and more diverse number of members in its plans, activities and monitoring.

Activities

Activity	Detail + Who	When
Outcome 1: BME third sector organisations in Greenwich actively, and collectively, influence at least 1 priority issue/policy area in each of the following sectors: education & youth; employment; older people; housing; and health (see issues prioritised below)		
Set up regular meetings with: - Health: NHS (Community Engagement Facilitator, Aaron Hamilton) and	Purpose of meetings: Discuss issues arising, actions to be taken. Monitor progress. Feed	Meetings with each every 2-3

Activity	Detail + Who	When
<p>Greenwich LINK (Development Manager, Catherine Nunn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment: GLLaB (P.Palmer/Abdi Kasim); Job Centre Plus (Outreach Manager, Michelle O'Connor) - Education: EMASIG and BEMEAC (Lead Officer, Felicity Bonal) - Housing: Neighbourhood Services (Participation & Diversity Team Leader, Sue Treherne) - Older People: Adult and Older People's Services (Senior Contract Officer, Avril Haywood) - Youth 	<p>in views from BME Forum groups. Get information to report back to groups. Issues raised at these meetings to be taken to Strategic Boards (eg. Health feed into SSLG)</p> <p>BME leads in each area</p>	<p>mths</p>
<p>Identify other key people in public bodies to engage with on particular issues. Set up ad-meetings. eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police, Partnership - BME Councillors - Eileen Edwards, LBG Principal Policy Officer 	<p>BME Steering Group</p>	<p>Set up 1st meetings Apr-Jun. Aim to meet at least 2 times in yr.</p>
<p>Identify who the Voluntary Sector representative is on the various LSP Boards and/or Sub-Committees (Children's Trust; Safer Greenwich Partnership; Health & Well Being; Sustainable Communities). Meet with the representative and exchange regular information.</p>	<p>So that the representative can feed-in BME Forum members' views at the LSP Board meetings / sub-committees and to share information.</p> <p>BME leads</p>	<p>Set up 1st meetings Apr-Jun. Aim to meet at least 2 times in yr.</p>
<p>Attend Third Sector Forums (facilitated by GAVS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and Young People's Forum - Health & Well-Being Forum - Voluntary Sector Leaders' Forum 	<p>Represent and feed-in views from BME Forum groups. Report back to groups.</p> <p>BME leads, but open to all groups</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
<p>Employment: Organise an awareness-raising/training workshop between BME Forum groups working on employment and training and GLLAB and the Job Centres.</p>	<p>To raise awareness amongst GLLAB/Job Centre staff of issues facing BME communities; for BME groups to know more about the work of GLLAB & Job</p>	<p>tbc</p>

Activity	Detail + Who	When
	Centres; to form closer links between BME groups and the Job Centres, GLLAB BME Employment lead/GAVS	
Education: Work with EMASIG (as agreed Nov 09) to raise awareness amongst Ethnic Minority Advisors (EMAs) in schools of the local BME youth groups; identify ways to work together. Hold workshop/meeting between EMAs and BME groups.	Eg. Extra support for children, extended school activities, referrals and follow up etc. BME Education lead/GAVS	Follow up in Mar
Health: Influence and feed into NHS campaign on health promotion (via Aaron Hamilton)	Help decide design, content and location for posters and information, so as to be accessible for BME communities BME Health leads/GAVS	Discuss 1 st steps Mar
Where relevant, feed into regional and national BME consultations via ROTA, MiNet, BTEG etc. Circulate information to BME Forum members via email Bulletin and/or raise during Forum meetings for a collective response.	BME Steering Committee / GAVS	Ongoing
Outcome 2: At least 40 BME organisations in Greenwich are more informed about policies, decisions and opportunities impacting on their work and their communities, and are able to act on this information in a timely and effective way.		
Collate up to date list of BME groups in Greenwich focusing on: Health; Employment; Youth & Education; Housing; Older People	GAVS	By 1 st week April
Consult with BME groups working on each area, in order to represent and feed in their views at meetings – via email group list, phone, or 1:1 / group meetings	BME lead	Ongoing
Report back to BME Forum groups after meetings with stakeholders - via email updates and at BME Forum meetings	BME lead	Ongoing

Activity	Detail + Who	When
Disseminate information received from public bodies and other stakeholders – via email updates and at BME Forum meetings	BME lead/GAVS	Ongoing
BME e-Bulletin each month includes updates and information on issues	GAVS	Monthly
Other information to be disseminated / consult eg.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioning information - Health issues prioritised from new JSNA - List of employment/training schemes - BEMEAC report and plans (education achievement of BME children) - London 2012 Games information 	Leads on each area / GAVS	Ongoing
Outcome 3: Increased collaboration between at least 5 BME organisations in Greenwich on common goals, services, funding or resources		
Make list of BME Forum groups available to other Forum members (contact details, services, target groups etc)	GAVS to make available	By 1 st April
Include time for networking in each BME Forum meeting	BME Steering Committee	Quarterly
Include in one of the BME Forum meetings a ‘market place’ session, where groups can talk/show what they do	BME Steering Committee	May?
BME e-bulletin includes information on BME Forum groups activities	GAVS (all groups to feed-in)	Monthly
Support BME Forum members to be ‘commission-ready’, including identifying collaboration/consortia of groups to increase chances of being commissioned	GAVS	March-Aug/Sept
Hold workshop for BME groups providing supplementary schools/lessons to exchange best practices, discuss ways to solve common problems and get an update on new policy and funding	GAVS	January
Joint Black History Month activities. Work with Council (Arts & Culture, Tracy Sage) and	BME Steering Committee	From April?

Activity	Detail + Who	When
the Heritage Centre (Chris Foord) for increased BME Forum participation in the planning and implementation of activities		
Other key third sector groups in Greenwich to engage with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer Centre Greenwich - Change Up - Multi-Cultural Women’s Forum - Multi-Faith Forum 	Invite VCG to Forum meeting. Arrange meetings with others. Invite them to speak? BME Steering Committee	
Outcome 4: BME Forum represents and involves a greater and more diverse number of members in its plans, activities and monitoring		
Increase and diversify Steering Committee members	BME Steering Committee/GAVS	By end Mar
Ensure Steering Committee members and ‘leads’ understand their roles and are supported to carry out these roles	BME Steering Committee/GAVS	Ongoing
Hold at least 5 Steering Committee meetings in 2010: plan and follow up on Forum meetings; discuss issues arising. Develop Action Plan for 2010, monitor and review this Plan and the Forum outcomes. Plan for 2011	BME Steering Committee/GAVS	5 x yr
Visit, learn from and exchange information with other BME Forums and BME Infrastructure organisations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend at least 2 conferences/workshops/trainings - Sign up to relevant newsletters, bulletins, virtual networks - Meet and develop relations with at least 3 other organisations 	BME Steering Committee/GAVS	Ongoing

* Key issues prioritised

Education and Youth:

- Lack of facilities for youth

- Underachievement in education (including need for mentoring and parent support)
- Youth crime

Employment:

- Lack of skills / skills mismatch to jobs
- Lack of access to employment services
- Benefit trap – benefits system not working for BME communities.

Housing:

- Lack of information and services that are accessible / tailored for BME communities
- Allocation of housing does not consider varying needs of BME communities (includes issues of integration and disabilities)

Health:

Poor health indicators for BME communities - not accessing health services due to:

- Lack of appropriate information (health promotion)
- Language, culture and stigma barriers (to access services)
- Immigration and welfare issues (to access services)

Older People:

- Lack of communication and awareness of available services
- Lack of ability access services and support
- Lack of information and analysis of BME older people's needs (needs analysis)

Capacity Building of BME Forum members

GAVS can provide capacity building support to BME groups who are members of GAVS. This ranges from training, 1:1 support, advice and information on areas including funding, governance, project planning, monitoring, finance and management. Membership of GAVS is free and open to any community, voluntary or faith group in Greenwich.