

Greenwich BME Forum

Minutes, 25th August, 2010

11am – 1pm, Clockhouse Community Centre

Present:

41 individuals, representing 36 organisations – see attendee list.

1. Welcome and Introduction

JD welcomed all and introduced agenda for the meeting.

2. Public Health Service Providers – addressing BME Health

2.1 NHS Greenwich: Feedback from BME consultations – Aaron Hamilton

AH gave his apologies – unable to attend.

2.2 Greenwich Council Drug and Alcohol Action Team – John McGirr

JM spoke about the services this team can offer, including BME clients.

2.3 Time To Talk, Oxleas NHS – Matthew Foulsham

MF gave presentation (see powerpoint) on this new service.

2.4 Greenwich Community Health Services - Dr Slobodanka (Boba) Rangelov

SR spoke about PALS and panel groups.

2.5 Greenwich LINK – Maloo Patel

MP spoke about LINK's remit and the consultations they have been doing with BME groups.

3. BME Organisations – addressing BME Health

3.1 Somali Care Agency (SORAG) – Amran Mohammad

AM gave overview of SORAG's services and history

3.2 Greenwich Mind: The Asian Counselling Service – Shanta Batacharia

SB gave apologies, was unable to make it.

3.3 MOSAC – Kim May

KM gave presentation on MOSAC's services and Play Therapy in particular (see powerpoint)

4. Identifying how the BME sector and public health bodies can work better together

Main discussion points were:

- Why aren't BME communities **accessing these services** more? What are the barriers?
 - **Not aware of services?** Is information being posted/distributed in best places? BME groups could help disseminate info to their communities/clients
 - **Language** barriers - but translation/interpretation is available – are people aware of this? BME groups could help clients call GP/Hospital in advance to book a translator. Groups can help publicise language services (eg see posters and leaflets on this). Health services don't encourage family/friends to translate due to confidentiality issues.
 - **Better signposting and referrals** to/from BME groups and health services. SORAG and others raised concerns about how services dealt with referrals and queries. Incidences of cases not being followed up or not being directed to correct person/department.
 - **Cultural** barriers eg. people recognising/naming their 'condition' and understanding treatments and services available. Eg. Counselling and CBT is not common/accepted in other cultures.
 - Agencies need to understand **better/be sensitive to particular backgrounds** and issues of BME communities eg. refugees – may have been through trauma; those with language difficulties may not be able to express correctly their needs, symptom.
 - Diet/food in hospitals – not tailored to BME patients
 - Issues/**projects**/conditions eg. HIV/AIDS, Diabetes, that are relevant to BME communities – how to make sure they engage with these / services appropriate to these communities.
 - Pregnant women from BME communities (eg. of Afghan women), not accessing services. Don't fit in. Not aware. Scared of going.
 - Services for BME people with **disabilities**?
 - **Training for health agency** staff on BME needs.
 - **Training for BME groups** on services available, how to refer etc.
 - Time to Talk – looking for community spaces to hold sessions/awareness.
 - Agencies give talks at BME groups meetings, provide information, training.
 - Issue of **immigration status and needing fixed abode** – is this myth though? Don't need fixed abode to access services?
 - Referral numbers re BME – monitor this
 - **BME groups to keep their communities informed** of services.
- *BME Forum (JD & health rep) to follow these issues up with agencies and in next meeting with NHS and LINK*

5. News, feedback and progress update from BME Steering Committee

Updates given on:

- Employment (JD) *BME Training & shadowing-Employment Advice*, 8 Sept
- Education and Youth (JD/GC): re safeguarding
- Older People (EG): Met with AOPS
- ESOL working group (AW): working group, will be developing questionnaire

- New Steering Committee Members (JD): info in next Bulletin. Select in Nov.
- 6. Black History Month** – BME Forum event 1st October 2010 – interested groups to sign up
- 7. Notices**
- Nigerian Independence event at Observatory
 - Funding –see bulletin list
 - Training
 - GAVS sector awards

Next BME Forum – 24th November 2010