

## Greenwich BME Forum

### Minutes, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

11am – 1pm, Clockhouse Community Centre

#### Attendees & Apologies

See list below

#### 1. Access to employment, training and volunteering for BME communities

Panel: Patricia Palmer, GLLaB; Dave Kelly, Job Centre Plus; Andy Smith, VCG; William Ekinu, GCRE

Presentations and discussion took place on the following:

- Barriers for BME communities to access employment, training and volunteering – and the opportunities that GLLaB, Job Centre Plus and VCG offer.
- How BME third sector organisations can engage with and work more effectively with Job Centres Plus, GLLaB, VCG and other relevant employment, training and volunteer agencies.

Questions included:

- Language translation problems and the facilities available (Job Centre Plus can provide this – ask at Job Centre or Outreach Team ‘Big Word’ initiative – 3 way tel call; GLLaB have 11 different language speakers.)
- Facilities for people with learning disabilities and those with mental health challenges (Job Centre have a mental health team)
- Referral mechanisms/support for groups who have community members asking them for advice on benefits, jobs etc. (This is specialist job. Welfare Greenwich Rights, GLLaB & Job Centre have dedicated specialist staff to provide this. Welfare Rights can come out to groups to explain)
- How to encourage BME communities to use existing services (Job Centre now have Outreach team at Glyndon Estate and Woolwich Common, GLLaB working in partnership with others including 3<sup>rd</sup> sector)
- Volunteer opportunities at 2012 (eg. VCG getting database for those who can translate)

#### Action:

- JD/WE to follow up with panel members to discuss how the Forum and its members can work more closely with them.
- JD to send round presentations and contact names.

#### 2. Minutes from last meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

Accepted by all present.

Action points had all been completed.

### 3. BME Forum Action Plan 2010

BME Forum Steering Committee drafted an Action Plan for the Forum for 2010 (this was circulated and a summary presented). Action Plan is based on the BME Forum meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> Nov and previous priorities identified and agreed upon by the Forum.

See draft Action Plan attached.

#### Action:

- All Forum members to read Action Plan. **Please feedback any comments to Jo or any Steering Committee member by 31<sup>st</sup> March.**

### 4. News and Feedback

- **Health:** Elizabeth Oyewole (Forum health lead) and JD met with Community LINK and NHS. Meetings have now been set up for every two months. EO and JD will discuss health issues raised by BME Forum members. Community LINK and NHS will take issues forward to the Statutory Sector Liaison Group. EO/JD to feed back information to Forum members.
- **Education:** Workshop was held on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan for BME supplementary schools to exchange best practices, challenges and to learn more about future policy and funding plans. Council small grants is now open, contact Gabrielle Hunt on 020 8921 8004, deadline 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- **Commissioning:** Workshop 'Love Your Tender' was held for BME young people's groups on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan to learn more about Commissioning. Council commissioning process will be open for consultation early March. GAVS will be supporting groups to engage with the process and to apply.

### 5. Notices and AOB

- **BME Forum Steering Committee Members:** new members are welcome, especially for health. **Action:** Those interested should contact Jo at GAVS or other Steering Committee members. Shanta from Asian Counselling said she is still willing to be on the Committee.
- **Funding:** Information is included in monthly BME bulletin and GAVS Info Update. Highlighted Allen Lane Foundation [www.allenlane.org.uk](http://www.allenlane.org.uk) and RISE [www.unltd.org](http://www.unltd.org)
- Operation Black Vote MP Shadowing Scheme – contact Jo for details.
- MOSAC (Mothers of Sexually Abused Children) gave information about their service. Anyone interested should contact Niki on 020 8293 8582 [niki@mosac.org.uk](mailto:niki@mosac.org.uk)
- GAVS Magazine: Any group wanting to include information should contact Katha on 020 88581363.
- GAVS events: 'Are You Legal' 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2010 Games 19<sup>th</sup> March.

## Attendees

Anglo Asian - African Caribbean Friendship and Cultural Association	Harbhajan Singh
Advocacy for Older People in Greenwich	Eleanor Gibson (Steering Committee)
Advocacy in Greenwich	Leila Lawton
Africa Smile	Jean-Paul Rukengwa
AHEAD	Harriet Kyalimpa
BEMA-D / GLLaB	Abdi Kassim
CET-C for Women	Bim Foyalen
Changemakers	Marie-Lyse Numuhoza
Eritrean Diaspora Community Network	Asmerom Woldegebriel
Filipino	Moises Espanola
GAVS	Katharina Guderian
GAVS	Jo Deverson (Co-ordinating)
GLLab	Patricia Palmer
Glyndon Ethnic Minority Tenants Residents Association	Asaib Singh Saib (Chair)
Greenwich & Bexley Tamil Association	S Thavaseevn
Greenwich & Bexley Tamil Association	V N Sweem
Greenwich & Bexley Tamil Association	Dan Radcliffe
Greenwich Council – BME Mental Health	Decan Bogle
Greenwich Council for Racial Equality (GCRE)	William Ekinu
Greenwich Ghana Association	Anita Sackey
Greenwich Mind Asian Counselling	Shanta Batacharia
Job Centre Plus	David Kelly
Kidbrooke Vietnamese & Chinese School	Hey To
London Civic Forum	M Meadowcroft
MOSAC	Niki Fayase
Network for Regenerational Development	Paul Lam-Klam
NHS Greenwich	Aaron Hamilton
Somali Parents Network	Said Mohammad
Somali Teaching Group	M Hersi
SORAG	Amran Mohammed
Trust Thamesmead	Sharron Hawe
UCSL	Andrew Lebbie
Volunteer Centre Greenwich	Andy Smith
Walpole Estate Management Association	Ramesh Beharry-Bhudial
Youth Rally Mission	Isaac Attram

**Apologies:** Sonia Ramanah - Streetvibes; Elizabeth Oyewole - Family Isis; Mama Afrika; Toks Bailey- JMF Support; Fung Ping Lui - Chinese Women's Association; Galina Clark - SERLS-F; Avril Haywood – Adult & Older People, LBG; Catherine Nunn – Community LINK; Kirit Patel – SE Gujarati Assn; Alak Joran – Afghan; Saeed Ahmad – GCRE; Balbir Singh Bakhshi