

GREENWICH BME FORUM – BULLETIN April 2010

Welcome to the April edition of the Greenwich BME Forum e-Bulletin. This monthly bulletin is sent to all community, voluntary and faith organisations in Greenwich whose services and activities target black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee communities.

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Greenwich BME Forum

- **Next BME Forum meeting: Wednesday 26th May**
The next BME Forum meeting will be on Wed 26th May, 11am – 1pm, at Clockhouse Community Centre, Woolwich Dockyard. This time, the meeting will be all about you - the BME Forum members. You asked us for more networking opportunities, so here's your chance..... an opportunity for all groups to promote their work and to get to know what other groups are up to. There will be 'stalls' for groups to show materials, leaflets, photos and talk about their work, as well as presentations from a number of groups. **If you would like to have a stall, please contact Jo at GAVS.**
- **BME Forum Steering Committee:** We are looking for new Steering Committee members to represent BME youth and education. Please contact Jo at GAVS or other Steering Committee members if you are interested.
- **Greenwich Employment & Skills Partnership working group on 'New Approach to English Speakers of other Languages':** Information about ESOL needs in the borough. Asmerom from EDCN has volunteered to represent the BME Forum at this working group (thank you Asmerom!). This is an important opportunity for BME organisations to have their concerns and suggestions regarding language barriers and ESOL provision heard by the Council and key partners. The first meeting of the working group is 28th April. We will keep you updated on this and ask for your input!
- **Employment:** Following the BME Forum meeting on 24th Feb, which focused on employment, training and volunteering, we have set up a meeting with GLLaB, GCRE and hopefully Job Centre Plus to follow up on the issues raised and suggestions made on how BME groups can work with these agencies. The meeting will be held on 30th April. We'll report back at the next Forum meeting on 26th May.
- **Health:** We have now set up meetings every two months between the BME Forum (represented by Elizabeth and Jo), the NHS and Greenwich LINK. During our meeting on 11th March, the NHS informed us that they are working on a Health promotion campaign which they would like BME groups to input into – we will keep you informed about this. The Department of Health is also currently consulting on their 'Review of access to the NHS by

foreign nationals'. This is an issue relevant to many of our BME communities, so feed in your views! Go to: www.dh.gov.uk.

- **Black History Month:** BME Forum members requested that the BME Forum had more input and co-ordinated approach to Black History Month, held in October each year. BME Forum Steering Committee members will be meeting with Greenwich Heritage Centre on 16th April to discuss this. Watch this space for more....
- **BME Forum Action Plan 2010:** The BME Forum Action Plan 2010 is attached. This is based on Forum members' priorities and suggestions. The BME Forum Steering Committee are responsible for making sure that the Action Plan is implemented. The Committee will report back on progress during Forum meetings and through the bulletins.

Other BME Sector News

- Experiences of **BME women and children facing domestic violence** and abuse – new [report](#) from Imkann.
- **Promote Performance Campaign:** Voice4Change has launched a new campaign to encourage BME third sector organisations to evidence the value and benefits of their work. Find out more and access the resources [here](#).
- **Preventing Violent Extremism:** MiNet have produced a Policy Briefing highlighting key issues surrounding the government's Preventing Violent Extremism agenda. It includes issues around the independence of organisations which receive this funding and the implications it may have for their organisation. For a copy of this Policy Briefing please email MiNet@rota.org.uk
- **BME inequalities in health and social care:** The Afiya Trust's manifesto on health and social care raises concerns about inequalities in health and social care. Read the manifesto [here](#).
- Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum (MRCF) Newsletter, March 2010 is attached.
- **Single Equality Bill:** MiNet encourage BME groups to join the coalition and offer your support. Go to www.rota.org.uk for latest updates.

Funding

- **Hilden Charitable Fund 2010** Summer Play Schemes Grants are now open for applications. The awards aim to help community groups run summer play schemes for the benefit of children aged 5 to 18 years from refugee and ethnic minority families. Grants of around £1,000 are available to voluntary agencies with an income of less than £150,000 running play schemes lasting for two to six weeks. Deadline is 14th May. For details do to www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk.
- **Trust for London Open Programme:** The trust invites applications from third sector organisations that support residents, communities and minority groups who are

discriminated against or disadvantaged. The maximum value of the grants is £15,000. Deadline is 30th May. For details go to www.trustforlondon.org.uk.

- **Woodward Charitable Trust:** awards grants to organisations working with social and ethnic minority groups. Small grants £100- £5,000 and large grants over £5,000 are available to UK registered charities with an annual turnover of less than £250,000. Deadline is 24th May. For details go to www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk.
- **Allen Lane Foundation** awards grants to not-for-profit organisations involved in small-scale projects in the UK. Grants of between £500 and £15,000 are available to organisations working in areas that benefit people including Gypsies and Travellers; and asylum seekers and refugees. Applications can be made at any time at: www.allenlane.org.uk.
- **Greenwich Council has launched its grants budget commissioning framework:** From now until May 2010 the Council intends to consult on its framework and commissioning priorities. This is our time to get involved! GAVS will also be delivering tailored support to groups to help them get 'commission ready', we will be announcing our programme in April.

Training and Events

- **Quality Mark Workshop**, 20th April: to support organisations applying or re-applying for the CLS (Community Legal Services) Quality Mark. Organised by AdviceUK and the BMER Advice Network. E-mail ana.abraham@adviceuk.org.uk or phone 0207 469 5701.
- **Ethnicity and Use of the Mental Health Act**, 24th May, 9am-4:30pm, at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, NW1 2BJ. For details go to www.bme-mentalhealth.org.uk or contact Ahmed Qureshi on 07540 356 526
- **GAVS Training:** For details of all GAVS' training go to: www.greenwich-cvs.org.uk/events/. Courses coming up include: Setting Up Your Organisation (21st April), Online Marketing (22nd April), Human Resources (27th April), Fundraising (5th May), Social Enterprises (11th May), Project Planning (19th May), Trustee Roles (26th May) and more..... Courses are free, but you must book with GAVS in advance. [Booking form](#). [Training Brochure](#).

BME Forum Members' News and Information

- **Greenwich BME Forum website page** with meeting minutes and monthly bulletins on GAVS' website www.greenwich-cvs.org.uk

If you would like to include anything in the May bulletin – events, information, news about your work - please send it to jo.deverson@gavs.biz by 5th May 2010.

If you would prefer not to receive this, please let us know by replying to this email.

Best wishes

Jo

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