

GREENWICH BME FORUM – BULLETIN August 2010

Here is your August edition of the Greenwich BME Forum e-Bulletin. The themed headings represent the priority areas in the BME Forum 2010 Action Plan.

This monthly bulletin is sent to all community, voluntary and faith organisations whose services and activities target black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee communities in Greenwich.

HEADLINES: [BME Forum, Wed 25th August](#); [BME Employment training 6th Sept](#)

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Greenwich BME Forum

- **Next BME Forum meeting: Wed 25th August**, 11am–1pm, Clockhouse Community Centre, Woolwich Dockyard, SE18 5QL. The focus will be on BME health. The NHS, AOPS Drugs team, Greenwich LINK, mental health service providers and several BME health groups will be presenting and discussing **how the BME sector and public service providers can better address health issues affecting BME communities in Greenwich**. To confirm your attendance please contact Jo at GAVS, jo.deverson@gavs.biz tel: 020 8858 1363.
- **Black History Month 2010:** The BME Forum, in association with Greenwich Heritage Centre, Greenwich Libraries and Brunel University, will be celebrating this year's BHM with an **exhibition to be held at the Heritage Centre 1st-31st October**. BME groups are invited to submit an object that has some cultural, ethnic or traditional significance for their community, but may also be about issues that have social relevance today. The story that accompanies the object will be displayed (in text or audio) beside the object. They will also be featured in a new nationwide digital archive project 'Tales of Things' (ToTeM) www.talesofthings.com. At the **launch event** on Friday 1st October, BME organisations are invited to perform music, dance and spoken word. *If you are interested in taking part, please complete the attached form and return it to Jo at GAVS by 31st August.*
- **BME Forum Steering Committee:** In November, the BME Forum will be appointing new Steering Committee members. Information on becoming a Committee member will be given out at the Forum meeting on 25th Aug. Or contact Jo at GAVS or other committee members (cc'd) for details. Previous Committee and Forum minutes can be found on the [BME Forum website](#) page, along with news, bulletins and the action plan.

BME Employment, Training and ESOL

- **Do you provide employment advice and services to BME communities?** On **Wed 8th Sept**, the BME Forum and Job Centre Plus will hold a special **free training and shadowing half-day with the Job Centre Plus Outreach Team** at Glyndon Community Centre for BME organisations providing employment support. Places are limited, so to find out more or to book, *email Jo at GAVS*.
- **Greenwich Employment and Skills ESOL working group:** The BME Forum is represented on this by Asmerom from EDCN. If you have ESOL issues you would like raised, please contact Asmerom edcn545@yahoo.co.uk. Several BME groups are also exploring the potential of organising joint ESOL classes – if you are interested, please contact Asmerom at EDCN or, Jo at GAVS.
- The BME Forum meets every 2 months with Job Centre Plus and GLLab. The next meeting is at the end of August. The BME Forum Steering Committee employment representative is William Ekinu from GCRE, william.ekinu@gcre.org.uk. Please let William or Jo know if you have issues/queries for us to raise.

BME Health

- **HIV&AIDS** project: Greenwich LINK would like to hear feedback from people who have received HIV&AIDS services, advice or treatment at the Trafalgar clinic or elsewhere for a new research report. Feedback can be anonymous. Contact Catherine.Nunn@parkwoodhealthcare.co.uk or tel 020 8853 2857
- **Language interpreters** are available at GPs and hospitals, if requested ahead of appointment times. Just ask the receptionist. Using family members as interpreters is discouraged, to ensure patient's confidentiality.
- Greenwich LINK are hosting a public debate on the Government's **White Paper on Health on 13th Sept**. It's important that BME communities are represented at this. Contact Catherine Nunn (details above) for details.
- **The BME Forum, NHS & LINK** meet every 2 months to discuss BME health issues. The last meeting was on 21st July. More information on the latest issues and how the BME sector and public service providers can work more effectively together will be discussed at the BME Forum on 25th August (see above for details).
- BME Forum Steering Committee Health: A representative for health is still needed! Please contact Jo at GAVS or other Steering Committee members if you are interested.

BME Youth & Education

- **Safeguarding children for BME & Faith groups:** Greenwich Safeguarding Board would like to hear your views and needs on safeguarding issues for children from different minority ethnic, culture and faith communities to inform new London Child Protection Procedures guidelines and training. Please tell us your views by completing the attached questionnaire – there are only 4 questions!!
- **Greenwich BME Young People Substance Misuse:** A 2009/10 Assessment Report from Greenwich Council and NHS has shown that BME young people in Greenwich are overrepresented in drug related crime but underrepresented in the treatment services. Greenwich Children's Services are keen to work with the BME Forum to encourage more BME young people to benefit from the treatment and advice services on offer. For example,

Compass Greenwich offers a free and confidential drug and alcohol service for young people. Compass can also offer free Drugs/ Alcohol awareness workshops to staff and young people. For more information contact Damon Knight on 0208 921 6907, email Damon.Knight@greenwich.gov.uk or see [Compass website](#).

- The **Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)**, offers advice, disclosure checks, training and resources on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults not only to Churches, but also to other faith and non-faith organisations. See the [CCPAS website](#).
- The BME Forum will be meeting the Ethnic Minority Advisory School Improvement Group (**EMASIG**) in October and is also working with the **Schools Cluster Development Team** on how BME parents, youth and other organisations can work more effectively with the local authority and schools to improve support to BME students. The BME Forum Steering Committee Youth & Education rep is Galina Clark from SERLS galaeduc@aol.com.

BME Older People

- **BME Forum & Greenwich Council Adults and Older People Services (AOPS):** The BME Forum Steering Committee Older People representative, Eleanor Gibson, and Jo from GAVS met Avril Haywood from AOPS on 1st July. We agreed to meet every 2 months to discuss issues concerning older people from BME communities. If you have issues you would like us to raise, please contact Eleanor at advocacy4olderpeople@tiscali.co.uk

Funding

- **Hilden Charitable Fund:** grants for projects related to homelessness, penal affairs or race relations. Deadline 1st Sept. For information visit the [website](#).
- **Evening Standard Grassroots Grants:** deadline 13th Aug. For information click [here](#).
- **Help a London Child:** grants to support organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people. Deadline 3rd Nov. For information click [here](#).
- **Trust for London:** grants for projects that tackle poverty and disadvantage. Deadline 5th Oct. For information visit the [Trust for London website](#).
- **Greenwich Commissioning:** Application forms are now available. Deadline 27th Sept. GAVS is providing commissioning training and 1:1 support to groups intending to apply. Click [here](#) for details and forms.

Training and Events

- **Nigerian Celebration!** The **National Maritime Museum** are inviting local groups to the preview of a planetarium show to celebrate Nigeria's 50 years of independence, on **15th Sept**, 7-8pm at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. Light refreshments provided. Details of the show are [here](#). This live show will be presented by an astronomer (who will talk about modern Nigerian astronomy) and performance poet Adisa (who will talk about traditional Nigerian myths about the night sky). The show will focus on myths of Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba peoples. All are welcome! RSVP to Kithmini Wimalasekera KWimalasekera@nmm.ac.uk
- **Eddie Kadi stand up comedy show:** 15 free tickets available!! Greenwich Council have offered GAVS 15 tickets in the Greenwich Council VIP suite for Eddie Kadi's show on **4th Sept**

at the O2 Arena. These tickets are: To reward achievements of young people; In recognition of a contribution to the community; and for young people who might not otherwise get such an opportunity. The tickets will be distributed on a first come first served basis, and only 5 tickets per application – with at least 1 adult per group. Please provide us with some information regarding how your group may fit one (or more) of the criteria above. *Apply to Jo at GAVS by 26th Aug.*

- **Monitoring & evaluation training for London refugee** community organisations: The next free 2-day course ‘Making your services more effective’ is on 5th & 6th Oct. More information [here](#).
- **Strengthen and Empower your Relationships with Public Bodies:** A free practical training by Voice4England on 22nd Sept. To find out more visit the [Voice4England website](#) or contact Ravi Chauhan on 0207 843 6124.

Other BME news

- **GAVS Annual Sector Awards:** For a nomination form and further information, click [here](#). The deadline for nominations is 5pm on 3rd Sept. The awards will be presented at GAVS’ AGM on 22nd Sept.
- **MOSAC’s new book ‘Hurt’** has just been published. It tells the stories of non-abusing parents of children who have been sexually abused. To order your copy click [here](#)
- **Rightsnet website:** for up to date welfare benefits and tax credits information, news about community care, debt, employment and housing law, sourced direct from government and leading charities. [Rightsnet website](#)
- **EHRC new Equality Act Guides:** to explain people’s rights and responsibilities under the new Equality Act 2010 which comes into effect in Oct. The Act brings together lots of different legislation to make equality law simpler and easier to understand. EHRC have produced two versions of each set of guidance, one aimed at people who want advice on their rights and the other at those who have responsibilities under the law. The guides most recently launched cover: 1. Employment and 2. Services, Public Functions and Associations. The guidance can be accessed at [EHRC website](#)
- **Temporary Immigration Cap announced:** The government has imposed a temporary limit on the number of migrant workers from outside the EU allowed into the UK, in advance of permanent new controls due to come out into force next April. The policy will not directly affect asylum seekers and refugees, but the temporary cap will limit the number of foreign workers to 24,100 between now and April 2011. See [BBC](#) for information.
- **Manual for people advising undocumented migrants,** by Praxis Community Projects: For non-lawyers advising undocumented migrants eg on immigration, access to healthcare, social care, education, housing, ethical and practical issues in advice work. For information and to order a copy [click here](#).

If you would like to include anything in the next bulletin – events, information, news about your work - please send it to jo.deverson@gavs.biz. Feedback on the Bulletin or any aspects of the BME Forum is welcome.

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

Best wishes

Jo