

# GREENWICH BME FORUM – BULLETIN July 2010

Welcome to the July edition of the Greenwich BME Forum e-Bulletin. The themed headings represent the priority areas in the 2010 BME Forum 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.

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## Greenwich BME Forum

- **Next BME Forum meeting: Wed 25<sup>th</sup> August**, 11am–1pm, Clockhouse Community Centre, Woolwich Dockyard, SE18 5QL. The focus will be on **BME health**. The NHS, 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](mailto:jo.deverson@gavs.biz)*
- **Black History Month 2010:** The BME Forum, in association with Greenwich Heritage Centre and Greenwich Libraries, will be celebrating this year's BHM with an exhibition to be held at the Heritage Centre throughout 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. There will also be a launch event and BME organisations are invited to perform music, dance, drama and spoken word at this launch. *If you are interested in taking part, please complete the attached form and return it to Jo at GAVS asap!*
- **BME Forum, 26<sup>th</sup> May:** This Forum meeting was all about networking and partnership amongst BME groups in Greenwich. Over 35 BME groups attended and were able to identify areas for potential collaboration. We also had presentations from Greenwich & Bexley Tamil Association, Kidbrooke Vietnamese Chinese Supplementary School and Advocacy for Older People.
- **BME Forum Steering Committee:** The Committee met on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Minutes can be found on the Greenwich [BME Forum website](#) page, along with news, all bulletins and the action plan.

## BME Employment, Training and ESOL

- **BME Forum, GLLab and Job Centre Plus:**
  - Following the productive BME Forum meeting in February on employment, training and volunteering, the BME Forum is now meeting every 2 months with Job Centre Plus and GLLab. The next meeting is at the end of August. Please let William or Jo know if you have issues/queries for us to raise. The latest news from the Job Centre is attached.
  - In August there will be a **free training and shadowing day with the Job Centre Plus Outreach Team** for any BME organisation offering employment advice and services to their communities. Places are limited, so to book *email Jo at GAVS by Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.*
- **ESOL:**
  - The BME Forum now attends the Greenwich Employment and Skills ESOL working group. If you have ESOL issues you would like raised, please contact Asmerom from the Eritrean Diaspora Community Network who represents the BME Forum on the working group, [edcn545@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edcn545@yahoo.co.uk).
  - Several BME groups are also exploring the potential of organising joint ESOL classes – if you are interested please contact Asmerom or Jo.
- **BME Forum Steering Committee employment representative** is William Ekinu from GCRE, [william.ekinu@gcre.org.uk](mailto:william.ekinu@gcre.org.uk).

## BME Health

- **BME Forum, NHS & LINK** meet every 2 months to discuss BME health issues. The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> July. The NHS is currently consulting with different BME groups on how to ensure NHS services are more accessible to BME communities. Feedback from these consultations and suggested next steps will be discussed at the BME Forum's meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Jo also attended the Statutory Sector Liaison Group on Health meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July to inform them about the BME Forum. Any health related queries or issues you would like raised with the NHS and LINK, please email Jo at GAVS.
- **Health Care access for migrants in the UK:** The growing size and diversity of the proportion of the UK population who were born overseas have important implications for meeting health needs. [Read more here](#).
- **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

- **BME Forum & EMASIG:** We have been discussing with Greenwich Ethnic Minority Achievement School Improvement Group (EMASIG) and the Schools Cluster Development Team how BME parents, youth and other organisations can work more effectively with the

local authority and schools to improve support to BME students. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Jo at GAVS.

- **BME Safeguarding:** Thank you to all groups who responded to the questionnaire on safeguarding for children from different BME and faith communities. Your comments have been given to the Greenwich Safeguarding Board and will inform new London Child Protection Procedures guidelines. Galina and Jo will be meeting GSGB on 12<sup>th</sup> August to discuss BME groups' safeguarding concerns, so it's not too late to send us your views.
- **BME Forum Steering Committee Youth & Education representative is:** Galina Clark from SERLS Friendship, [galaeduc@aol.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> July. We agreed to meet every 2 months to discuss issues concerning older people from BME communities. If you have particular issues you would like us to raise, please contact Eleanor at [advocacy4olderpeople@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:advocacy4olderpeople@tiscali.co.uk)

## Funding

- **Greenwich Commissioning:** The online application process is expected to go live week of 19<sup>th</sup> July and the deadline will be 27<sup>th</sup> September. GAVS is providing commissioning training from now until Sept and 1:1 support to groups intending to apply. Click [here](#) for commissioning guidelines and training.
- **Greenwich Cultural Opportunities Fund:** Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July. Grants available up to £4,000. For more information visit the [Arts and Culture Greenwich Council webpage](#).
- **Comic Relief UK** - is now open for applications for projects working in mental health, domestic and sexual abuse, refugee and asylum seeking women, sexually exploited and trafficked young people, young people and alcohol, local communities. Deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> September. For more information visit [Comic Relief website](#).
- **Awards for Bridging Cultures:** Deadline 13<sup>th</sup> September. Awards of up to £10,000 are given to projects that promote the understanding of different cultures, faiths and beliefs. For more information visit [awards' website](#).
- **Grassroots Grants:** Deadline 13<sup>th</sup> August. For more information visit the [website](#).
- **Porticus UK:** is a faith based charitable trust that supports projects around strengthening family relationships, enriching education, transforming through faith and ethics in practice. For more information visit the [website](#).
- **Njoya Foundation:** Deadline 12<sup>th</sup> August. The grants aim to enable the empowerment of male youth of African and African-Caribbean descent. For more information visit the [Foundation's website](#).

## Training and Events

- **GAVS Training:** Check the GAVS [website](#) for courses and booking forms.
- **Children's Services** are holding [Safer Recruitment Training](#) and [Children's Workforce Inductions](#) free for voluntary sector groups in Greenwich. Click on the links for more details.
- **African Communities Organisation Development Programme (ACODP):** The 2010-11 schedule of Open Training, organised by the Terrence Higgins Trust, is now available. For information on these free courses, email [samuel.cunningham@tht.org.uk](mailto:samuel.cunningham@tht.org.uk) or contact Marcy on 0207 812 1691.
- **Support for organisations working with young Muslims:** Muslim Aid is offering free support and training to organisations which work with Muslims aged 12 - 19. More information at the [Muslim Aid's website](#).

## Other BME news

- **Manual for people advising undocumented migrants:** Praxis Community Projects has launched a manual for non-lawyers on advising undocumented migrants. It includes topics on: immigration, access to healthcare, education, housing, ethical and practical issues in advice work. For further 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](mailto:jo.deverson@gavs.biz). Feedback on the Bulletin or any aspects of the BME Forum is welcome too!

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

Best wishes

Jo