

## GREENWICH BME FORUM – BULLETIN May 2010

The May edition of the Greenwich BME Forum e-Bulletin introduces a new format based on the BME Forum's key themes. Hope this is useful – feedback welcome! 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 26<sup>th</sup> May**, 11am – 1pm, Clockhouse Community Centre, Woolwich Dockyard, SE18 5QL  
This meeting will be an opportunity for all BME groups to promote their work, to get to know other BME groups and to identify any areas for collaborative working. There will be tables/'stalls' round the room for groups to show their 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 by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May.**
- **BME Forum Steering Committee:** New Steering Committee members to represent BME youth and education are needed. Please contact Jo at GAVS or other Steering Committee members if you are interested.
- **Greenwich BME Forum on GAVS' website** is [here](#) with the latest news, monthly bulletins, action plan etc.

### BME Employment and Training

- **New ESOL Working Group:** Greenwich Council's Employment & Skills Partnership have started a new working group to look at ESOL needs in the borough. The first meeting was on 28<sup>th</sup> April and Asmerom from the Eritrean Diaspora Community Network (EDCN) represented the BME Forum on this ESOL working group. Asmerom will feedback on the discussions at the next BME Forum on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Any queries or views on ESOL that you would like Asmerom to raise at the next ESOL working group meeting, please email him at [edcn545@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edcn545@yahoo.co.uk)

- **BME Forum, GLLab and Job Centre Plus:** The February BME Forum meeting focused on employment, training and volunteering. To follow up on the issues raised at that meeting, the BME Forum employment representative, William Ekinu from GCRE and Jo from GAVS, met with GLLab and Job Centre Plus on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Everyone agreed that it would be beneficial to meet regularly to exchange information on supporting clients from BME communities with employment and training issues. GLLab and Job Centre Plus have agreed to host a training workshop for the BME Forum groups who advise and support their clients on employment. Job Centre Plus have also offered to introduce BME Forum groups to their outreach team and meetings will be arranged with both Job Centre and GLLab staff teams. Dates and more information will be provided at the BME Forum on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Any queries, please email William at [william.ekinu@gcre.org.uk](mailto:william.ekinu@gcre.org.uk)

## BME Health

- **BME Forum, NHS & LINK:** The BME Forum health representative, Elizabeth Oyewole from Family ISIS, and Jo from GAVS are now meeting with NHS Greenwich and Greenwich LINK every two months to exchange information relevant to the health of BME communities. The most recent meeting was on 5<sup>th</sup> May. 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 presented and discussed at the BME Forum's meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Any queries or, for health issues you would like the BME Forum to raise with the NHS and LINK, please email Elizabeth at [elizabethisis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elizabethisis@hotmail.co.uk).
- **Mental Health First Aid Training:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June, Mycenae House. For details and to book, see the attached flyer and booking form or contact [janice.williamson@oxleas.nhs.uk](mailto:janice.williamson@oxleas.nhs.uk).
- **Greenwich LINK** have a new Community Development and Engagement Officer – Maloo Patel. If you or your clients wish to talk to someone about the health or social care services they are receiving within Greenwich, you can contact Maloo on 020 8853 2857 or [Maloo.Patel@ParkwoodHealthcare.co.uk](mailto:Maloo.Patel@ParkwoodHealthcare.co.uk). LINK's AGM is on Wed 30th May, 6-9pm, Charlton House and everyone is invited. They are also recruiting new Executive Committee members. (See flyer attached)
- **Greenwich Community Health Services Patient Services Manager**, Boba Rangelov's role is to provide support, advice and information related to community health services. Boba also deals with patient complaints, as well as getting public feedback about services and working with health professionals to implement changes suggested by the public. You can contact Boba directly on 020 3260 5157 or e-mail [Slobodanka.rangelov@greenwichpct.nhs.uk](mailto:Slobodanka.rangelov@greenwichpct.nhs.uk). See also the 'PALS' leaflet attached.

## BME Youth & Education

- **BME Forum & EMASIG:** We have been discussing with Greenwich Ethnic Minority Achievement School Improvement Group (EMASIG) how BME parents, youth and other organisations can work more closely and effectively with the local authority and schools to improve support to BME students. Suggestions have included a mentoring initiative and links

with the Ethnic Minority Advisors in schools. More details at the BME Forum meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May or, if you are interested in getting involved with this, please contact Jo at GAVS.

## BME Older People

- The BME Forum Older People representative, Eleanor Gibson, and Jo from GAVS will be meeting Greenwich Adults and Older People Services in early June 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)

## BME Housing

- No news on this at present...

## Funding

- **Trust for London:** Grants for organisations that support residents, communities and minority groups who are discriminated against or disadvantaged. Up to £15,000. Deadline: 30th May 2010 [www.trustforlondon.org.uk](http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk)
- **Think Big:** from O2, offering £300 cash grants to young people, along with training, support and mentoring. Grants awarded to projects having a positive impact on their local communities eg. fighting crime, starting local youth groups or renovating community spaces. [www.o2thinkbig.co.uk](http://www.o2thinkbig.co.uk)
- **Greenwich Commissioning:** Until the end of May 2010, the Council is consulting the sector on its framework and commissioning priorities. Click [here](#) for details. GAVS will also be delivering commissioning training between June-Sept and support to groups intending to apply for this round of commissioning. Details of the training will be available soon.

## Training and Events

- **GAVS Training:** Courses coming up include: Trustee Roles (26<sup>th</sup> May), Leadership and Management (15<sup>th</sup> June), Understanding Management Accounts (22<sup>nd</sup> June). For details and to book click [here](#).
- **African Story Telling:** 'The Griot Way' training weekends are an African storytelling course for adults, by Chi Creations Stories, to encourage people in the African Diaspora to learn the skills of storytelling, to delve deeper into their heritage and see how storytelling can enhance education, identity and be used for debate. 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> June, Deptford. Contact [pandemoniumvizations@hotmail.com](mailto:pandemoniumvizations@hotmail.com) for details.
- **NVQ Information Advice & Guidance:** Free training for front-line staff providing advice, guidance or signposting services. For information contact: Barnabas Workshops, [info@barnabasworkshops.co.uk](mailto:info@barnabasworkshops.co.uk), tel: 0208 514 8566

- **Operation Fairway – Counter-Terrorism:** Presentations will be given at Woolwich Town Hall throughout 2010 by the Police to heighten awareness to suspicious activity. The operation seeks to enlist additional ‘eyes and ears’ in support of the government’s attempts to counter the threat. For details and dates see the attached document.
- **BME Women’s Leadership & Engagement** in Public & Civil Institutions and Life: 21<sup>st</sup> May, Bethnal Green. Hosted by TAHA. Free, but book in advance. For details, see attached flyer.
- **Beyond Refuge:** How can we make it easier for refugees to live as equals in London? On 1st July, refugees, community groups, statutory and funding bodies will share understanding; identify what refugees need to strengthen their situation in London; and work out how to make equality for refugees easier. Contact [olesya@reap.org.uk](mailto:olesya@reap.org.uk) to book a place.

## Other BME news

- **Black History Month:** BME Forum Steering Committee members, William and Jo, met with Greenwich Heritage Centre on 16<sup>th</sup> April to discuss ideas on celebrating Black History Month this October. It was suggested that an exhibition be held at the Heritage Centre, where BME organisations could display an object significant to their community, together with the story behind it. The exhibition could be launched with a music or spoken work event. What do you think? More details on this and other Black History Month information will be given at the Forum meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May.
- **Public Spending for BME Sector:** MiNET are researching the impact of public funding cuts on the BME Sector in London. They are asking for BME organisations to contribute to a survey. To take part, click [here](#).
- **Equality Act 2010:** The final wording is available [here](#).

If you would like to include anything in the June bulletin – events, information, news about your work - please send it to [jo.deverson@gavs.biz](mailto:jo.deverson@gavs.biz) by 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

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

Best wishes

Jo