

# Greenwich BME Forum: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011, 11am-1pm

## Minutes

Clockhouse Community Centre, Woolwich

### Attendees:

- 51 individuals representing 39 BME organisations. See separate list for names.
- Chair: Jo Honeybone, GAVS (JH)

### 1. Welcome and introduction (JH)

All were welcomed and main purpose of today's Forum given – opportunity for BME groups to get to know more about what each other does. Election of Steering Committee Members. Update on BME Forum representation activities under 5 key priorities. Briefing on Council's Strategic Equalities consultation.

### 2. BME Groups in Greenwich – who are they and what do they do?

Quiz about BME groups in Greenwich and BME population in Greenwich. Presentation / answers given. (Information taken from New Communities Report – Greenwich Council, Aug 2011).

### 3. Hearing from some BME Groups in Greenwich

- Greenwich MIND – Carole Stagg
- Somali Parents Network – Said Mohamed
- Daylight Academy – Debbie Yishak, Dupe Makinde
- Ajoda Community Alliance – Zainab Clarkson
- Agape – Brenda Conteh
- Blessed Generation – Alozie Benson
- Gypsy Roma Travellers – Jenny Daly and Tina Purcell

Each group presented on their aims, activities and services, who they work with, how they are funded etc.

### 4. BME Forum and new Steering Committee

- JH thanked current Steering Committee members for all their work during the past year. Each member takes a 'lead' role on one of the BME Forum's Action Plan priorities. Represents BME Forum at meetings with service providers and helps organise BME Forum activities. Full role description available.
- Current members are standing again. New nominee Rebecca Fajebe.
- Details of all nominees were given out at the meeting.
- Majority of all present at the meeting voted to accept all nominees onto the Steering Committee for 2011/12. These are:
  - Eleanor Gibson (Advocacy for Older People) –BME older people and vulnerable adults lead
  - Zainab Clarkson (Ajoda Community Alliance) – BME health lead
  - Ramesh Beharry-Bhudial (Walpole Estate Management Association) –BME employment lead

- Dorothy Ghanekar (Her Centre) – BME women
  - Galina Clark (Friendship Society) – BME youth & education
  - Rebecca Fajebe (Esther Ministries Outreach)
- JH/GAVS facilitate the Steering Committee.
  - Any concerns/complaints about Steering Committee members should be raised with JH/GAVS.

*Tea/Coffee break*

## **5. BME Forum: GP Surgeries ‘BME-Friendly’ Initiative**

JH & ZC gave feedback on BME Health meetings. Eg. Progress made on language lines. To address issue of GP surgeries being more ‘BME sensitive and friendly’ (an issue which has continually been prioritised by BME Forum members), we have been meeting with GPs at Conways, Plumstead. Idea developed of GP Surgery BME-friendly informal ‘accreditation’ – to be piloted at Conways and Galleons surgeries. NHS & Oxleas reps at BME Health meetings are also supportive of this. Would involve surgeries (GPs & receptionists) having training (including by BME groups) on BME health issues/cultural sensitivities etc and BME health services available (eg African Women’s clinic, FGM etc).

All at meeting asked to brainstorm ‘criteria’ for what BME friendly surgery would look like/have. Responses:

- 1) Educating GPs and receptionists
- 2) Finding the largest representation in the area – Having front desk/receptionist/GP reflecting what the BME representation/community is in the area.
- 3) BME community – talking to receptionist
- 4) Flexible opening times
- 5) Sign posting by the GP surgery to local BME groups or BME specialist health agencies/support (and vice versa)
- 6) Directing links to GP surgery
- 7) Posters – Equal representation eg BME faces on the posters/BME languages/ visual posters/signs (for those that can’t read)
- 8) Awareness training
- 9) Multi agency work
- 10) Front desk training

ZC & JH to meet with GPs in January to develop initiative further.

## **6. Greenwich Council Strategic Equalities and Hate Crime: New proposed service – David Weaver**

DW is independent Chair of Greenwich Council’s Steering Group consulting on and developing new Strategic Equalities (race) and Hate Crime service. DW explained about new proposed service and the consultation process that has just begun. JH reminded everyone that purpose of DW speaking today is to explain how people can input their views into the consultation process and to clarify any questions, not for consultation/views to be given today.

- Council to issue online survey in next few weeks. This will be available on both Council and GAVS’ websites. Questions were asked as to whether these could be translated and made accessible for those that don’t have internet access. DW to check. Surveys also to be available in libraries, Community Centres etc.

- DW happy to be contacted directly if people wish to give views.  
[David.Weaver@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:David.Weaver@greenwich.gov.uk)
- Consultation event in January will take place.
- Steering Group – Council Officers. GAVS’ Chief Exec sits on this to represent GAVS’ members and civil society organisations’ views. Groups can also feed in views direct to GAVS.
- Reference Group – made up of other representatives in community. BME Forum Steering Committee sit on this too.
- DW answered queries concerning funding of new service/organisation (£150k available); consultation exercise; decisions made so far etc.

## 7. Updates on BME Forum areas: Health; Employment; Older People; Youth & Education

- Employment* (Ramesh Beharry-Bhudial): RBB & JH meet with JCP & GLLab on regular basis to discuss BME employment. RBB gave updates on work clubs, work experience etc. GAVS Employment bulletins and workshop.
- Health* (Zainab Clarkson): as above. Also TB & Malaria campaign. ZC & JH hold regular BME health meetings with service providers.
- Older People* (Eleanor Gibson): drop-ins taking place with BME older people’s groups. Contact EG if you are interested. Follow up to BME Forum in August on safeguarding BME vulnerable adults – we have inputted in Safeguarding Adults action plan for engaging with CSOs . We are following up re better referrals and training for groups.
- Housing* (no report)
- Children & Young People* (JH): BME parents workshop held 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov – successful. 2 further workshops planned, also BME Fathers workshop in the new year.

*See BME Bulletin for further information on each of these areas.*

## 8. Notices and AOB

- BME Bulletin issues in Nov – contains BME funding, news, events etc. Next one is Jan.
- Digital Switchover taking place: Relevant to BME groups. information, funding, awareness session available from Gary Davies [Gary@slcvpartnership.org.uk](mailto:Gary@slcvpartnership.org.uk)
- BME Forum working with Lewisham Refugee Network and Southwark Refugee Communities Forum to develop IT project for BME groups in all 3 boroughs. Survey distributed to ask BME groups about their needs – will be used to support proposal. LRN leading on proposal.
- IYDA have Maths classes. See flyers.
- 2012 work opportunities – contact GLLab

**Next BME Forum:** Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, 11am-1pm, Clockhouse Community Centre.