

Greenwich BME Forum: 24th August, 11am-1pm

Minutes

Clockhouse Community Centre, Woolwich

Attendees:

37 individuals representing 27 BME organisations. See separate list for names.

Chair: Jo Deverson, GAVS (JD)

1. Welcome and introduction (JD)

All were welcomed.

2. Vulnerable Adults from BME Communities

Today's Forum focus is on BME Vulnerable Adults – What are the issues? How can BME groups support BME vulnerable adults, their carers and families better.

Presentations:

- Domestic violence in BME communities – Lucy Crane, Her Centre
- Older people from BME communities – Eleanor Gibson, Advocacy for Older People
- Adults with Learning Disabilities from BME communities – Dean Bogle, Greenwich Council (15% of those on Greenwich learning register are BME)
- Safeguarding BME vulnerable adults - Janet Miller, Greenwich Council

See presentations. Questions and discussion followed.

Tea/Coffee break

3. Group work, discussing case studies on the issues above

What issues are raised by these case studies?

How can BME groups best respond and provide support in these cases?

Common issues in each case study:

- Issues of extended families (not asking state/service providers for help), financial abuse, emotional abuse, language. Different cultural perceptions.
- BME communities fear of service providers –eg if they call.
- Need to ensure better referral system between BME groups and Service providers – eg. Safeguarding Adults at AOPS and other AOPS' teams, also more linkages between BME groups for help & support. Need feedback on referrals and concrete action.
- BME groups can improve way inform/support clients too. Better training and resources for groups
- More information exchange and awareness of services and support between groups/service providers

4. Updates on BME Forum areas

- a. *Employment* (Ramesh Beharry-Bhudial). Meetings held with JCP. Employment workshop planned for Nov. Discussions on how new benefits system affecting BME. Difficult to get data.

- b. *Health* (Zainab Clarkson): Good meeting with Health providers: issues of HIV, language services, mental health, GP surgeries discussed.
- c. *Older People* (Eleanor Gibson): Workshop in June, resulting in drop-ins with BME groups.
- d. *Housing*: JH met with Neighbourhood services & Diversity Panel lead.
- e. *Children & Young People* (JH): BME parents' workshop planned for Nov. Working with Children's Services and GCSB on this. Also working on joint project between EDCN, Nepali Women, SPN and Stephen Lawrence.

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

5. Refugee Services: follow up

Will be speaking with Refugee Council to follow up May Forum and refugee survey – how can we support BME groups in the borough to better support/inform refugees and asylum seekers.

6. Notices and AOB

Groups gave notices of events.

Next Bulletin Oct/Nov.

Next Meeting: 23rd Nov. Includes selection of BME Steering Committee members