**Greenwich BME Forum**

**Wednesday 11th September 2013**

Clockhouse Community Centre, Defiance Walk, SE18 5QL

**Minutes**

**Present**

35 people attended, representing 25 different BME organisations. (Attendee list available from GAVS.) Facilitated by Eleanor Gibson (EG) - Vice-Chair of BME Forum Steering Group

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| 1. **Welcome**  * Opening remarks from JC |
| 1. **Appointment of BME Forum Steering Group Chair**  * BME Forum Steering Group have elected a Chair and Vice Chair for the Group, who have responsibility for liaising closely with GAVS. Chair – Yasmin Rehman (Greenwich Inclusion Project) and Vice Chair – Eleanor Gibson (Advocacy for Older People in Greenwich) |
| 1. **Welfare Reform**   **Speaker 1 - *Janet Elphinstone – Training Officer, Greenwich Welfare Rights***  Presentation on changes to benefits from April 2013 up to now  Presentation attached  **Speaker 2 - *Carlos Hagi – Welfare Benefits Supervisor, Plumstead Community Law Centre***  Presentation on the impact that the reforms have had on clients, support organisations and how organisations can accordingly respond  Presentation attached |
| 1. **Networking and refreshments** |
| 1. **Chris Scanlan – Contracts Project Manager, NHS Greenwich Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**  * Translation and Interpretation Services (TIS) have been relaunched. The service is now available in all primary care settings. * Update on what the CCG has done to address the 6 points of concern (attached) raised by the BME Forum concerning TIS. * Every patient entitled to free translation and interpretation services at point of entry to NHS – this can be telephone interpretation (immediate access and over 200 languages available) or an in-person interpreter, who would need to be booked in advance. * NHS Greenwich CCG are very keen to get feedback on users experience of the relaunched TIS. Feedback can be provided through GP practices, the CCG or GAVS. Important that any concerns or issues over the service are fed back. |
| 1. **Laura Luckhurst – BME Representation**   Overview of what Representation is, how it works and how you can get your views heard. Contact [Laura.luckhurst@gavs.biz](mailto:Laura.luckhurst@gavs.biz) to get involved.  Presentation attached |
| 1. **BME News, Updates and AOB**  * GAVS are recruiting for Round 2 of the BME IT Project, due to begin in November– free social media training for groups working with BME communities. Email [Kirsty.purnell@gavs.biz](mailto:Kirsty.purnell@gavs.biz) or call 020 8858 1363 to register interest. * Nadine Hagen from the Central African Organisation wants to work with other BME organisations to set up a mentoring scheme for BME individuals - wants to set up an initial meeting with other groups. Contact Kirsty on [Kirsty.purnell@gavs.biz](mailto:Kirsty.purnell@gavs.biz) or 020 8858 1363 to get Nadine’s details * Sat 14th September – Greenwich Celebration of Youth Turning Point. Contact Florence [info@worldofhope.org.uk](mailto:info@worldofhope.org.uk) 07949 590341 * Free personal development workshops for young women – 11-19. Contact Toyin at Listening Ears on [listeningearsuk@gmail.com](mailto:listeningearsuk@gmail.com) * Peter Caddy from Blenheim CDP wants to set up a Steering Group, made up of reps from local BME organisations, to look at reasons why BME communities are not accessing the Drug and Alcohol Service and identify ways of overcoming these. Contact Peter on [p.caddy@blenheimcdp.org.uk](mailto:p.caddy@blenheimcdp.org.uk) * Christ Faith Tabernacle have rooms available at their premises in Gala Bingo, for local voluntary and community groups to deliver projects from. Visit the venue for more details. |
| 1. **Close**  * Next meeting Wednesday 4th December, 11.00-13.00, location TBC |