



GREATER MANCHESTER
BME NETWORK

Newsletter

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www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk



GREATER MANCHESTER BME NETWORK

Changes to NHS Landscape and Health & Social Care Needs for BME Communities discussed at Rochdale event



The latest Greater Manchester BME Network event took place at Rochdale Town Hall on Wed 22nd June. The event was delivered in partnership with CVS Rochdale and focused on issues related to changes in the NHS and the specific health and social care needs of BME communities. The event was designed to enable VCS and frontline services, Health & Social Care providers, NHS and PCT to come together with local BME community representatives to explore how they could better support BME communities. A total of 50 people

attended the event, including 30 agencies and organisations and 7 BME community representatives.

The programme for the day included presentations from a range of speakers and discussion groups enabling dialogue between different types of organisations and bodies. Presentations were made by statutory representatives; Abdul Razzaq, Director of NHS Trafford who has led on the BME Health agenda across the Northwest; Samina Arfan, Equality lead for NHS Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale; and Dr Musharraf Hussain, vice chair for GP Care (commissioning group). These presentations were then followed by case study examples from a local and regional perspective. Dr Priscilla Nkwenti, Chief Executive of BHA, gave an overview of the range of projects BHA are currently delivering and then Herbet Mckenzie spoke about Rochdale and District Mind, an organisation that deals with mental health issues. During the day there was also a chance for dialogue between participants as part of a roundtable discussion session exploring the key themes of the event. Some key issues were raised during these discussions, including (p.t.o)...



Information & Engagement—there is a lack of awareness amongst BME communities about mainstream health service provision; there needs to be more support to allow vulnerable members of society to access services; engagement has taken a back seat as the focus shifts to service delivery in light of funding cuts. Health Issues— there is stigma attached to certain illnesses and disabilities amongst BME communities; and a need for greater Hepatitis C and Mental Health awareness. Barriers & Challenges faced by BME communities— there's a need for more joint working between Statutory and BME VCS organisations; and a need to build up trust; there is a lack of representatives on health bodies; barriers include a lack of awareness, language, and a feeling people cannot challenge GP's. Gaps In Provision—lack of cultural/religious awareness, health promotion, availability of preventative measures, and jargon free medical advice.

The event drew to a close with a presentation from Charles Lauder from Talawa Consulting, who were instrumental in delivering the Race for Health programme. He rounded off the event by highlighting the need for BME communities to be aware of how they can be represented at strategic decision making bodies and allow the voice on BME health issues to be heard.



The Greater Manchester BME Network begins to meet



The Greater Manchester BME Network has begun to meet together as we try to form a network of BME and Refugee Networks and Forums from across Greater Manchester as well as key BME and Refugee organisations that would like to get involved. So far we have brought some of the key stakeholders in the Greater Manchester BME Network project around the table to talk about what we want the Network to look like and achieve, but we want more groups to get involved in the early stages of the Network to share their ideas on what they think is needed. The **next meeting** of the Network is taking place on:

Thursday 6th October, 10.30am-1pm (registration/refreshments from 10am)

Venue: The Bolton Hub, Bold Street, Bolton, BL1 1LS

At this meeting we will be looking at shaping and developing the Network, and sharing information about activities taking place in each local district. Also, we will be ***piloting our brand new website*** and you will get a chance to test it out, make suggestions on its content and look at ways in which your organisation or network can make use of some of the new functionality that will be available to you. This is particularly useful for those that do not currently have a presence on the internet.

If you are interested in attending this meeting please let the Greater Manchester BME Network team know via email: gmbmen@mccr.org.uk or phone 0161 227 0675.

Exciting Training Opportunities

The next Greater Manchester BME Network training session is taking place on Tues 1st November:

Making Social Media Work for You, Tues 1st Nov, 10am-3pm

@ Social Media Centre, Salford Innovation Forum, Frederick Road, Salford, M6 6FP

This training session will help you to develop a social media strategy that works for you by providing a practical insight into the various social media tools that are available. Key outcomes for the training are:

1. Beginning to link your communication needs with appropriate online tools
2. Introduction to creating film content for the web
3. Time management tools for maintaining your Facebook/Twitter profiles

The following content will be covered during the session: understanding appropriateness of different medium; choosing social media tools that fit your needs; creating films for YouTube; using Wordpress; how to make social media platforms talk to each other; and developing a social media strategy.

Because this is a practical session, places are limited to 12 (on a first come first served basis). If you are interested in attending this training session please contact the Greater Manchester BME Network team via email gmbmen@mccr.org.uk or phone 0161 227 0675.

Our offer to fund places on courses

Many of the local capacity builders in Greater Manchester, e.g. CVS Rochdale, T3SC, have begun to announce their training sessions for the upcoming year. If there is a training session that you are interested in attending but you are unable to afford the place please get in touch with us about the possibility of the Greater Manchester BME Network funding your place on the course. Some CVS's have also started looking at delivering to groups outside of their local district so make sure you look at other websites. For information about each district see the 'District Information' section of our website or contact us on the same details as above.

Building Bridges: The Co-operative and BME Communities

Members of the Greater Manchester BME Network team attended the recent Co-operative conference, "Building Bridges: The Co-operative and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities." The event had high calibre speakers with Sir Howard Bernstein from Manchester City Council; Moira Lees and Paul Flowers, respectively Diversity Champion and Chair of Financial Services for the Co-operative; and Dorothy Francis, CEO of Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Agency speaking on the day. Case study presentations were provided by OLMEC and TRESKOM, both large and successful BME-led co-operatives.

The main aim of the event was to show that the Co-operative approach to running an organisation/business, is an attractive one for BME communities. The Co-operative also want to increase the representation of BME members in its elected bodies to ensure they are more reflective of its membership.

In terms of support offered to organisations, the Co-operative Enterprise Hub has free consultancy support on offer and other advice available on their website:

<http://www.co-operative.coop/enterprisehub/>

The co-operative

REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Call for Case Studies - 'Refugees, Migrants, and the Equality Act 2010' Westminster Briefing Conference

GM BME Network has been invited to speak at a conference entitled "Refugees, Migrants, and the Equality Act 2010: Understanding the Act and Meeting Responsibilities". The conference is being organised by Westminster Briefing and will take place in London on 10th November 2011.

We will be taking part in the afternoon panel, entitled "Policy into Practice: Applying and Complying with the Act", which will follow an earlier session on current and future policy. We will be presenting case studies demonstrating examples of the Act being applied and illustrating effective partnerships between public services and refugee and migrant groups.

This is a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of the Refugee Sector in Greater Manchester, and to raise awareness of our collective efforts to strengthen partnership working between the public and voluntary sectors locally. Among the delegates will be representatives from central and local government, as well as schools and higher education providers, the UK Border Agency, and equality and diversity specialists – so this is also a valuable opportunity to influence decision makers.

Could you provide a case study? This is a real opportunity to showcase your work, so if you think you can provide a suitable case study, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Estelle Worthington (RCO Project Officer) on 0161 227 0675/ eworthington@mccr.org.uk

Volunteering Opportunities at Refugee Action - Gateway Volunteers

The Gateway Protection Programme, which supports refugees to resettle in the UK, is currently recruiting volunteers to work in a variety of roles. The Gateway Programme works primarily with refugees who have spent some time in refugee camps overseas, and are resettled to the UK via the UNHCR's resettlement programme. For more information on Gateway, please see <http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/ourwork/projects/Gateway.aspx>

They are currently recruiting for four different volunteer roles and so hope that you will be able to find a role that matches your skills and interests. You can express an interest in more than one role – please just indicate this on the application form.

Briefly, they are looking for:

- Arrivals Volunteers: This role involves supporting refugees (individuals and families) during their first week in the UK – meeting clients at the airport, local town orientation, benefits applications, etc.
- Advocate Volunteers: This role involves completing set tasks with individual refugees (opening a bank account, going to a hospital appointment, learning to use the bus, etc.) and advocating on their behalf.
- Administration Volunteers: Support the busy admin team in the Manchester office.
- Gateway Online Forum (GOLF) Volunteers: Use your admin and computer skills to work on updates to the Online Forum; assist clients to access and contribute to the Forum through group and individual work.

The deadline for completed applications is **21st October 2011**. Please also note that all Gateway volunteer positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. For further information, email: gerardd@refugee-action.org.uk or contact the Gateway Development Worker team on 0161 831 5420.

Working With and Influencing Local Government - GM BME Network and Refugee and Migrants Forum Manchester joint programme

In recent weeks the Greater Manchester BME Network and the Refugee and Migrants Forum Manchester have collaborated to deliver two sessions for refugees on 'Working With and Influencing Local Government'.

We have drawn in expertise from NAVCA to explore definitions of influence; understand the role of local council's, the NHS, Police and other decision making bodies; and develop a greater appreciation of how they reach decisions. We have also engaged the Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council (Cllr. Murphy) to directly answer questions put to her by refugees.

Interested in holding similar sessions in your own district? This forms part of our ongoing work to increase the levels of representation and influence of BME and refugee communities in Greater Manchester. If you would like to learn more, please get in touch with the team on 0161 227 0675/ gmbmen@mccr.org.uk.

NOTICEBOARD

Transforming Local Infrastructure programme—key information

What is it?

Earlier in the summer the Office for Civil Society announced it was providing up to £30 million for a new 'transforming local infrastructure' programme that will aim to 'improve support to frontline civil society organisations' by transforming local infrastructure services e.g. local CVS's and other agencies/organisations that provide support to voluntary and community sector organisations. This funding will be relatively short-term, only for 18 months, and encourages:

- Collaboration and consolidation - Imaginative/enterprising approaches
- Better links with local businesses - more peer-to-peer support
- Sustainability (without reliance on government support)

It is hoped that frontline organisations will be able to access a wider range of high quality support, networking and brokerage opportunities and that there will be stronger local leadership for organisations, with better partnerships with both private and statutory sectors. Overall, infrastructure organisations will be more efficient, effective and less dependent on state funding.

Application process?

- There is only to be one bid from each eligible local authority area, with Expressions of Interest made in August and each lead bid organisation selected in early September
- Each lead bidder must send in their completed application by the end of October 2011
- The selection process is a competitive one with successful funding bids announced in January 2012
- Funding in successful areas will begin in April 2012, lasting for 18 months

Is it too late to get involved?

There is still an opportunity for organisations that perform a capacity building role within their local district to get involved in the process as a partner within a bid. We are particularly encouraging those of you that play a key role in supporting BME and Refugee voluntary and community organisations to make contact with your local lead bidder: Bolton (Bolton CVS), Bury (B3SDA), Manchester (MACC), Oldham (VAO), Rochdale (CVS Rochdale), Salford (Salford CVS), Stockport (Anchorpoint Stockport), Tameside (T3SC), Trafford (VCAT), Wigan (Wigan & Leigh CVS).

To find out about how to get involved in the process contact your local district lead bid organisation (as stated above) or see BIG fund website http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_transforming_local_infrastructure or contact GMBMEN if you are unsure of how to contact your local bid organisation.

Tips on becoming a representative voice for the sector

At CVS Rochdale's recent Voluntary Sector Summit they held a workshop on 'Being a Stronger Voice in the Third Sector' and below are several tips that will be useful for anybody that is looking to represent their organisation, network or community on any type of strategic partnership or decision-making body.

Representation of this kind is extremely important for the Third Sector as a whole for many reasons, such as being a voice for those that you represent; influencing decisions; building partnerships across sectors and within the Third Sector; and promoting the Sector. However, not everyone can be a successful representative and there are some key skills that are required of those that take on the role:

- **Partnership (Collaborative Working) Skills** – joint working, representing the Sector, being strategic, feeding back information
- **People Skills** – enabling others, acting assertively, being self-aware, problem solving, political skills
- **Practical Skills** – being organised, communication, accessing and using knowledge, negotiating, mediating

New Resources for RCOs and BME Organisations – The Human Rights Act

As part of their National Human Rights Tour, the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) recently came to Manchester to deliver an awareness raising session for equality groups (including BME and refugee community organisations). They advised on how to use Human Rights Act to great effect in everyday advocacy and campaigning activities, and provided numerous examples of the Act being used to influence policy and practice.

We would strongly recommend any BME or refugee community organisation to make themselves familiar with the resources below.

- A voluntary and community sector guide to using international human rights: <http://www.bihr.org.uk/documents/general/a-voluntary-and-community-sector-guide-to-using-international-human-rights>
- An interactive, online toolkit on the Human Rights Act: <http://www.bihr.org.uk/human-rights-in-action>
- Human rights in the community project: <http://www.bihr.org.uk/projects/human-rights-in-the->

Big Lottery Fund consulting on future direction—Have your say

The government is currently seeking views on the Big Lottery Fund's proposed new policy directions. Those proposals are built around the idea of primarily funding projects delivered by voluntary and community sector organisations to provide solutions to issues that matter in their communities. The use of innovative solutions and development of policy and good practice beyond the lifetime of the funding are encouraged. The following principles are to be taken into account when decisions about distribution of funding are made: engagement, representation, sustainability, longer term benefit, additionality and complementarity, and collaborative working.

See <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/big-lottery-fund-consultation-proposed-policy-directions> for more information on how to respond.

ESOL Volunteer Project- developing ESOL language teaching capacity in your organisation

Manchester City Council, in partnership with Manchester Adult Education Service and The Manchester College, is working with third sector organisations to develop ESOL language training capacity in local communities.

The project is funded by Manchester City Council to train and support volunteers to teach beginners' ESOL classes until July 2011. The project also aims to support voluntary and community sector organisations to continue supporting volunteer taught ESOL classes once the project has finished.

Voluntary and community organisations can get involved in the project in a number of ways by:

- Helping to recruit local volunteers or residents as volunteer ESOL teachers
- Helping to recruit learners for pre-entry ESOL training sessions in your centre
- Hosting classes and training sessions in your centre during the project

The organisers would like to hear from you if there is a need for ESOL training capacity in your organisation; if your organisation already works with or knows committed and interested volunteers that would benefit from developing their language teaching skills; or if your organisation is a suitable venue for the delivery of ESOL classes and training sessions.

For further information, contact Nuala Trace, ESOL Volunteer Project Coordinator, Chorlton Park ALC, Mauldeth Road West, Chorlton, M21 7HH, 0161 254 7447/ n.trace@manchester.gov.uk.

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The Greater Manchester BME Network Newsletter includes the latest news and events from across the region as well as news relevant to stakeholders and organisations, including information on training opportunities.

The Newsletter is quarterly and free to subscribers. If you would like to subscribe please email gmbmen@mccr.org.uk.

If you would like an article to be included in the next Newsletter please forward on to gmbmen@mccr.org.uk. Articles should be around 200-250 words maximum – and preferably contain a picture or logo (attached as a jpeg).

This newsletter is available in large print. Please email gmbmen@mccr.org.uk or phone 0161 227 0675 for a copy.