



Newsletter

Issue 5, August—September 2010



www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk

GREATER MANCHESTER BME NETWORK

New! Peer into Success - support for BME and refugee organisations

Peer into Success is a new programme of support from GM BME Network aimed at helping front-line BME VCS and Refugee Community organisations to become more confident to tender for service delivery contracts.

The new coalition government are promoting service delivery contracting as part of the Big Society plans to provide local public services; this is likely to replace grant funding and so organisations will need to be in-the-know on this issue.

To help your organisation understand contracting and commissioning better we are holding an introductory event on Thursday 30th September 2010 at the St. Thomas Centre.

The event will feature a host of experienced speakers including:

- **Alex Whinnom, GMCVO** on Big Society
- **Fiona Sheil, NCVO** on contracting and

commissioning nationally

- **Adrienne Hunter, GMVSS** on programmes of support for VCS organisations in Greater Manchester

There will be workshops on **Health & Social Care, Children & Young People, Employment & Training** and **Information & Advice**. These will each be facilitated by an expert with knowledge on public service commissioning, including **Mike Gorman, Lead Commissioner for Manchester City Council**, and supported by leading officers from successful BME VCS and Refugee organisations like **MRSN, Inspired Sisters** and **Wai Yin Chinese Women Society**.

There will also be opportunities to talk to staff from GM BME Network and other capacity building organisations. **For more information and our updated programme go to the Events page at:**

www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk

GM BME Network on Twitter!



Follow us at <http://twitter.com/gmbmenetwork> for news from across Greater Manchester and updates on our events and training.

Refugee Communities & Representation Conference



On Wednesday 21st July 2010, Greater Manchester BME Network, TRIO, The Basis Project at Refugee Action and Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN) co-hosted a conference on *Refugee Communities and Representation* at Cross Street Chapel in Manchester.

Pamela Grant (Improving Local Partnerships Officer, NAVCA) began the conference with an introduction to Local Strategic Partnerships, followed by a keynote speech by Jonathan Ellis (Director of Policy & Development, Refugee Council.)

The speakers were followed by two separate workshop sessions: the first session entitled 'Inform', with an emphasis on the theory of representation and the second session entitled 'Influence', where the purpose was to showcase practical examples of representation and/or participation in action. The day concluded with a panel Q&A chaired by Khan Moghal (Chief Executive, Manchester Council for Community Relations), and a round table session where delegates discussed next steps forward.

Attendance was very good and feedback positive. The key outcome from the event was that there is an obvious desire of RCOs to be better represented and have their voices heard. Conversely, this is combined by a lack of awareness about representation and how it happens. To make the most of this interest, Local Strategic Partnerships need to more effectively engage Refugee Community Organisations in the process. Therefore, it was decided by all the co-organisers that follow-up work is necessary.

If you are interested, please visit: <http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk> to read the full conference report, access learning materials on representation and find out about forthcoming events on this theme.

REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Looking to share your experiences with other RCOs?

The Basis Project is looking for RCOs to share their experiences to help other RCOs around fundraising, social enterprise, commissioning, partnership/collaborative working and building community resilience. They can offer £200 per experience paper and RCOs can submit more than one. RCOs can also share documents such as needs assessments, policies, and business plans, etc.

To apply, email a brief description of the experience or document you would like to share, your organisation's name, address and telephone number to Helen.todd@refugeecouncil.org.uk by **Monday 20th September 2010**; experience papers must be submitted by Wednesday 29 September 2010.

NOTICEBOARD

Cuts Survey: how is your organisation affected?

GMCVO are carrying out a survey on public sector funding cuts on voluntary sector organisations in Greater Manchester. The survey concerns cuts that are either expected or have already been made and the information gathered will be used to influence and inform policy-makers at a national level.

If you would like to fill in the survey visit here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TN2FWMF>

The deadline for the survey is **Friday 1st October 2010**.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011

Do you know of an outstanding local voluntary group that should be nominated for next year's Queen's Award for Voluntary Service? The award is the MBE for volunteer groups so if you know of or have benefited from a voluntary group's hard work in the North West, nominate them now!

Nominations for the 2011 Award should be received by **Thursday 30th September**; successful groups will be announced on Thursday 2nd June 2011.

Further information can be found by visiting: www.direct.gov.uk/thequeensawardforvoluntaryservice or by calling 020 7781 2397.

For more BME/RCO news from across Greater Manchester
and updates on GM BME Network events and training,
visit our website: www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk

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The BASIS 2 e-newsletter will include the latest news and events from across the region as well as news relevant to stakeholders and organisations, including information on training opportunities.

The e-newsletter is quarterly and free to subscribers, if you would like to subscribe please contact Marna Motteram.

If you would like an article to be included in the next e-bulletin please forward any articles to Marna Motteram. 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.