



# Newsletter

Issue 8, April—June 2011

[www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk](http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk)



## GREATER MANCHESTER BME NETWORK

### Skills, Employment & Enterprise: Supporting BME Communities



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, we held our latest Stakeholder event at Wigan Town Hall. The event focussed on Skills, Employment & Enterprise and was delivered in partnership with local stakeholders. It was designed to enable VCS and statutory frontline services, training and skills providers, employment support services, and enterprise advisers to come together with local BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) community representatives to explore how they could better support BME communities. It was attended by 40 people, with 23 organisations and agencies represented and 9 BME

community representatives present.

Presentations were made by two local organisations that work with Refugees, LASARS and SWAP, highlighting the difficulties faced when refugees try to enter the workforce in the UK. Manchester First also shared information about an alternative way of providing learning and skills services, through the formation of a consortia of voluntary sector learning and skills providers. Information was also shared about the new Work Programme. The final presentation of the day came from Miranda Barker, President of the Wigan Chamber of Commerce, focussing on the support that is available for developing local enterprises.

Roundtable discussions were held focussing on key questions related to the theme of the event, with volunteering, partnership working, communication, barriers to participation, and gaps in provision all key issues that were discussed from both a public sector, voluntary sector and community members perspective. The event rounded off with some feedback from the groups and actions to be taken forward in the future.



## Find out about proposed changes to the NHS and where BME communities fit into this new agenda at upcoming event in Rochdale

Our latest Stakeholder Event takes place on **Wednesday 22nd June** at Rochdale Town Hall. The event starts at 9.45am and ends at 1.30pm and has been organised in partnership with **CVS Rochdale** to look at the '**Changing NHS Landscape**' and what the effects of this might be on BME communities. The event will bring together a wide range of speakers to provide information and local context about what changes are taking place to the delivery of Health and Social Care related work. The event will also provide a chance for voluntary and community groups delivering work in these areas to sit down with workers from the public sector (NHS, PCT etc) to discuss how these changes will affect BME communities.

Speakers include;

Abul Razzaq - Director of Public Health, NHS Trafford

Samina Arfan - Equalities Programme Manager, NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale

Priscilla Nkwenti - Chief Executive, BHA

Herbert McKenzie - Senior BME Community Development Worker, Rochdale & District Mind

Charles Lauder - Talawa Consulting

Dr Musharraf Hussain—GP Care Consortia Rochdale East

The event is **FREE**, with **lunch** provided for participants and it will provide a great opportunity to **network** with people from other organisations, public sector representatives and from other districts across GM.

If you are interested in attending the event please get in touch with the Greater Manchester BME Network team via email [gmbmen@mccr.org.uk](mailto:gmbmen@mccr.org.uk) or call us on **0161 227 0675**.



## “Peer into Success” - GMBMEN’s Organisational Improvement Programme gathers momentum



One of the key delivery outcomes for GMBMEN is around organisational improvement. We have developed a programme of mentoring and specialist workshops that will support 20 BME VCS (Black & Minority Ethnic Voluntary & Community Sector) organisations and Refugee Community Organisations (RCO's) in their ambition to become more confident and skilled in applying to deliver public service contracts. This will help to improve their chances of securing a future for their organisation.

Peer mentors have been selected from organisations that are more established and already successful in winning and delivering contracts and who can offer hands on expertise, advice and insight.

So far organisations have received additional consultancy support from NAVCA, had full healthchecks carried out by local capacity builders and started meeting with their mentors to create a development plan for the upcoming year. There have also been workshops provided on tendering and the PQASSO quality mark. There is an upcoming session on Sustainability called '*How to create a sustainability policy that will satisfy funders and commissioners*' which is being run in conjunction with MERCi on Monday 4th July, 10am-1pm @ Phil Martin Centre, 137-139 Princess Road, Manchester, M14 4RE.

For further information about getting involved in the programme or the workshops please contact GMBMEN on Tel:**0161 2270675** or email: [gmbmen@mccr.org.uk](mailto:gmbmen@mccr.org.uk)

## Get involved in the GM Equalities & Human Rights Forum

The Greater Manchester Equality and Human Rights Forum focuses on equality, diversity and human rights issues as experienced by the voluntary sector in Greater Manchester. The Forum's aims are to:

- Promote and champion equalities and human rights by informing and influencing public sector policy makers, third sector funders and other third sector organisations
- Facilitate discussion and debate between equality experts and encourage collaboration with a pan-equalities (cross-cutting) approach to common issues
- Campaign and lobby on behalf of disadvantaged communities and/or groups, raising concerns and issues that may affect them
- Promote and raise awareness of human rights and their relationship to equalities legislation
- Share and disseminate information regarding good practice
- Provide an opportunity for networking, debate and the sharing of research and good practice

The Forum is free to join and will meet four times a year, with future meetings in September, December and March 2012. Membership of the Forum is open to voluntary organisations from across Greater Manchester that have an interest in working with others on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights issues.

For more information, please contact Chris Heard at GMCVO on 0161 277 1030 or email [chris.heard@gmcvo.org.uk](mailto:chris.heard@gmcvo.org.uk).



## Manchester has a new Equality Hub

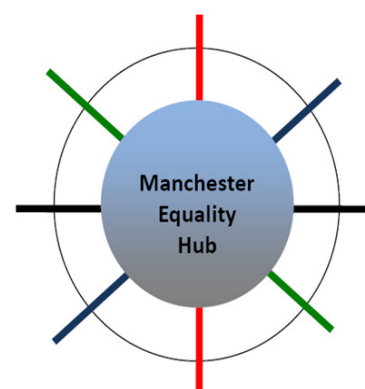
There is something exciting and new happening in Manchester.

The Manchester Equality Hub aims to bring together Manchester's leading third sector organisations representing minority and marginalised groups, to affect and influence inequality across Manchester. It will use its work to influence public sector policy and practice as well as supporting the third sector in its understanding and approach to equality and the implementation of duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the recently launched Public Sector Equality Duty.

The Manchester Equality Hub is now well placed to support organisations to get their Equality Impact Assessments processes correct or to challenge with regards to the difficult funding decisions being made, and it has recently developed free guidance to assist organisations to challenge funding decisions and cuts to their services through the Equality and Freedom of Information legislation.

Although the Manchester Equality Hub is still under development it is already creating widespread interest and support, including from Lynn Featherstone, MP, the Equalities Minister, who has asked to be kept informed on our progress.

For more information please contact Mark Nesbitt on 07528130349 or Lorna at Manchester BME Network on [manchesterbmenetwork@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:manchesterbmenetwork@hotmail.co.uk)



# REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

## Be a part of Refugee Week 20—26th June

*'Different pasts, shared future'*

**Refugee Week is a unique opportunity to discover and celebrate the contributions refugees bring to the UK. Refugee Week 2011 is taking place the week of 20-26th June.**

During Refugee Week lots of events take place across the UK, all of which explore refugee experiences. Whatever you're into - be it arts, music, food or just meeting people in your local area - **Refugee Week** will have an event for you. Visit the Refugee Week website at [www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk) for details about this year's events.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the [Refugee Convention](#). In order to mark the occasion and link it to Refugee Week 2011, our theme for this year will be **60 Years of Contribution**.

The organisers are currently collecting stories and case studies about the contributions that refugees have made to Britain over the last 60 years. If you have any interesting stories or photos on this subject to share get in touch with them via the links below:

<http://twitter.com/RefugeeWeek>

[www.facebook.com/RefugeeWeek](http://www.facebook.com/RefugeeWeek)

### Local Events:

**Manchester:** There are various events taking place during the week. For further info see the events guide—<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Week/Documents/PDF/Manchester%20Events.pdf>

One of the main events is the Refugee World Cup and Fun Day taking place on Saturday 25th June. It is a 7-a-side football competition for males aged 16 and over organised by Manchester FA. Registration takes place from 10am and it is being held at Manchester Communication Academy, Silchester Drive, Harpurhey, Manchester, M40 8NT. Family fun day activities start at 12pm.

For more information contact John Hurst from Manchester FA on 0161 203 2990 or [john.hurst@manchesterfa.com](mailto:john.hurst@manchesterfa.com)

**Oldham:** see <http://vaoldham.org.uk/assets/Refugee%20Week%20%202011%20flyer.pdf> for information about events taking place this week.



## City of Sanctuary Movement

City of Sanctuary is a national grassroots movement of local people, community groups, businesses and organisations...

"We want Manchester to become a more welcoming place for people seeking sanctuary from war, trauma and persecution.

"We are creating a network united in making our city more welcoming, open and fair for all—particularly those who most need safety."

Regular meetings take place to help grow the movement in Manchester and current participants warmly encourage more refugee community members to take part in these meetings. To find out more, see: [cityofsanctuary.org/manchester](http://cityofsanctuary.org/manchester)

# NOTICEBOARD

## New factsheets for Greater Manchester's Voluntary Sector

A set of online information guides and factsheets has been produced for the voluntary and community sector across Greater Manchester.

Each factsheet offers basic information, advice and guidance to help voluntary and community organisations to set up, develop and grow. Through a new format, the factsheets include everything from registering a charity to how to influence parliament.

The factsheets were compiled by members of Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support (GMVSS), who collaborated to consolidate over 200 existing factsheets and produce new factsheets from scratch through a wide range of expertise. The aims of the initiative were to better co-ordinate and manage information for the sector, offering better consistency and access to crucial areas of support.

The collaboration has included Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO), Voluntary and Community Action Trafford (VCAT), Tameside Third Sector Coalition (T3SC), and Bury Third Sector Development Agency (B3SDA).

The factsheets are now available to download from [www.gmvss.net/factsheets](http://www.gmvss.net/factsheets)



## Funding Options for Organisations

### **BT Community Connections:**

The BT Community Connections scheme has opened for a second 2011 round.

The awards scheme is intended to provide voluntary groups and charitable organisations working to benefit the community in the UK with IT equipment and Internet access. Successful applicants to the programme will receive a laptop and a year's free broadband Internet connection.

In particular, the scheme is keen to target areas of deprivation which normally receive little or no funding and would otherwise have no IT provision.

The award will be 12 months' free connection to BT Business Total Broadband Advance, which includes features described in the standard products and services terms.

The deadline is 15 September 2011 and winners will be notified by 12 November 2011.

For further information please visit:

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/BTCommunityConnections/index.htm>

### **Clothworkers' Foundation**

The Clothworkers' Foundation aims through its funding to improve quality of life, particularly for people and communities facing disadvantage. Charities and organisations that can demonstrate their not for profit status are eligible to apply.

Grant amount: £500 and £10,000 for capital costs.

Deadline: No deadlines - rolling programmes.

Further information: [www.clothworkers.co.uk/Grant-Making/Grant-Making.aspx](http://www.clothworkers.co.uk/Grant-Making/Grant-Making.aspx)

## The Ben Kinsella Fund

Projects funded through The Ben Kinsella Fund should: promote anti-knife crime messages in schools; colleges or youth clubs; promote positive stories about young people; encourage positive engagement between young people and the police; and encourage young people to get involved in their local community.

Projects should involve and be set-up by young people.

Grant amount: Up to £3,000.

Application process: Tel: 0800 842 842 or text 'Call Me' to 07983 385418.

Deadline: Unspecified

Further information: [www.princes-trust.org.uk/need\\_help/grants/ben\\_kinsella\\_fund.aspx](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/need_help/grants/ben_kinsella_fund.aspx)

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority comes into operation



The inaugural meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority took place in April 2011. The Combined Authority - the first of its type in the country – is a new statutory body which reflects the fact that Greater Manchester has a single labour market and a cross-party commitment to a single policy for growth.

Under the new arrangements, a new body - the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee – will also be established to oversee day-to-day transport matters in the region whilst the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive will be renamed as Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). The Greater Manchester Combined Authority will not replace the 10 local authorities, but will comprise one member from each and takes the work AGMA has achieved to the next level.

For more information see [www.agma.gov.uk](http://www.agma.gov.uk)

## CONTACT

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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](mailto: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](mailto:gmbmen@mccr.org.uk). Articles should be around 200-250 words maximum – and preferably contain a picture or logo (attached as a jpeg).

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