



NEWSLETTER



Issue 1, Sep/Oct 2009

Greater Manchester BME Network BASIS 2 Project Launch

The BASIS 2 project launch for the Greater Manchester BME Network will take place on Wednesday 14th October 2009 at 12pm. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, it will be held at the St. James' Centre on Princess Road.

The launch will bring together partners from the steering group, including Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO), Manchester BME Network, Manchester Council for Community Relations (MCCR) and Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN), along with other stakeholders, local organisations and government officials.

**GM BME NETWORK
PROJECT LAUNCH
WEDNESDAY 14th
OCTOBER**

Recent research carried out by MCCR on infrastructure support services to BME VCS organisations across the region showed that the nature, level and quality of organisations varied considerably across the ten local authority areas of Greater Manchester – Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. To address this the BASIS 2 Project will strengthen networking of BME VCS organisations across Greater Manchester and improve the standard of infrastructure support.

The project will aim to achieve this by ensuring that each local authority area has a representative, effective and efficient network for local BME VCS organisations; that VCS organisations currently supporting BME VCS are better able to meet the development needs of those communities; and that a network is developed across Greater Manchester to promote the interests of BME VCS, identifying changing needs, co-ordinating activity and developing the sustainability of local support.

The project will deliver a programme of focused work across the sub-region to address identified needs and ensure that there is an acceptable level of support to BME VCS organizations. It will work across all areas in Greater Manchester to ensure that good practice and resources are shared and progress is co-ordinated.

Greater Manchester BME Network

Meet the Team

Project Co-ordinator Hakeel Qureshi comes to the team after 7 years at Tameside 3rd Sector Coalition. From his role as Policy and Participation Officer (BME Agenda), Hakeel brings experience of managing the Tameside BME and BME Women's Network and working with other BME groups across the district, providing capacity building and support to groups.

Nathalie Long our BME VCS Officer, spent 2 years co-ordinating the Manchester BME Network and hopes to apply her skills in organising events and providing support and training to groups to the Greater Manchester BME Network.



From left: Rowan, Nathalie, Marna, Hakeel

The project's Refugee Community Organisations Officer is Rowan Smith, who adds experience of grant making and capacity building in the voluntary sector from over 12 months as Fund Officer at Community Foundation for Greater Manchester.

Marna Motteram has spent the last year as a Supporter Services Assistant with the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) in London. She hopes to apply her skills in administration and customer services to her position as Project Administrator & ICT Officer.

The Partners

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) is the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary sector in the sub-region of Greater Manchester. Their work is representing, promoting and developing voluntary organisations and working in partnership with other organisations doing similar work.

Manchester BME Network is for people working in and involved

with BME VCS in Manchester. It focuses on key issues impacting on BME communities and their service delivery organisations. Currently it has around 200 member organisations and meets quarterly.

Manchester Council for Community Relations (MCCR) is Manchester's Equalities Hub. It works towards the elimination of racial discrimination and the

promotion of equal opportunities, diversity and community cohesion in Manchester and parts of Greater Manchester.

Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN) is a refugee-led charity working to build strong and independent refugee organisations and give people the information they need to settle and build new lives.

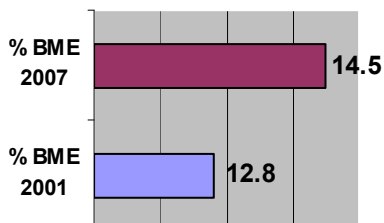
Refugee Community Organisations

Every newsletter will have it's own dedicated section for refugee and asylum seeker related topics. We hope to provide a space for refugee community organisations to both learn about up coming training and events and also to publicise their achievements in their local area. Furthermore, we will include up to date news on policy changes to do with education, housing, employment, health and immigration law. By acting as a voice for and on behalf of these groups, the Greater Manchester BME Network will empower closer connections amongst refugees and asylum seekers in each of the ten local authorities. That's why we used the exact same number of coloured dots linked together in our logo! Therefore, the goal is to enable refugees and asylum seekers to better contribute to the decision making that affects them the most. The idea of this article will be to inform organisations of and promote the successes of this project.

The Districts

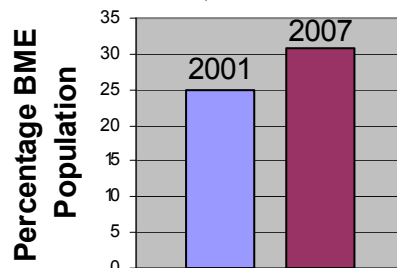
We have already begun to map the BME population dynamics and existing BME networks in each Greater Manchester borough. Greater Manchester BME Network would like to share some of that information with you in order to provide a flavour of the communities the project will work with.

Bolton



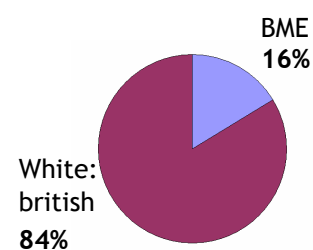
- Largest BME communities are Indian (6%) and Pakistani (2.8%)

Manchester



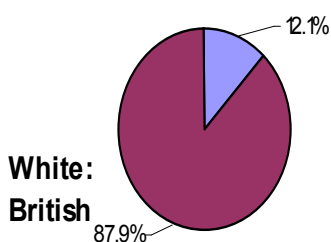
- The major increases have been in White: Other (2.7 to 4%), Indian (1.5 to 2.7%), Black African (1.7 to 3.1%) and Chinese (1.3 to 2.7%)
- Manchester BME Network is very well established

Rochdale



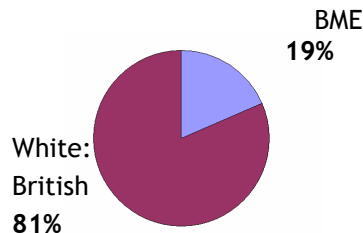
- During the period 2001-2007 there has been an increase in the BME population of 2.6%

Bury BME



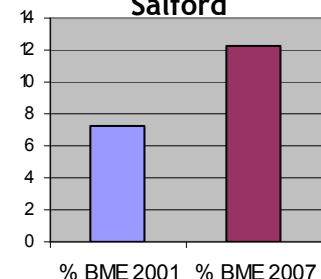
- Overall, the largest BME communities are Pakistani (3.6%) and White: Other (1.9%)

Oldham



- Between 2001 and 2007 there has been significant population increases in Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Black African groups

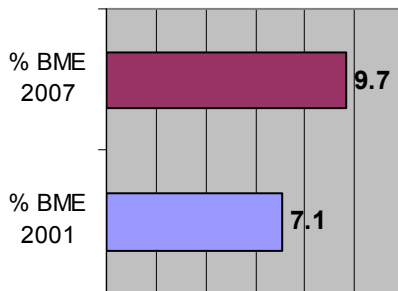
Salford



- Each BME group has at least doubled in size between 2001 and 2007

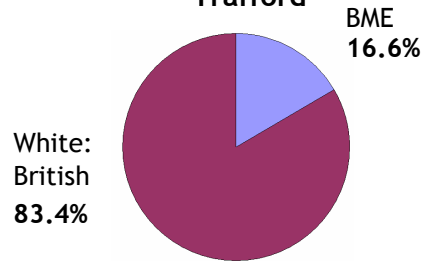
Greater Manchester BME Network

Stockport



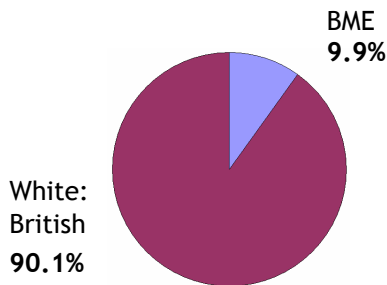
- Largest BME groups in terms of population are White: Other (1.7%) and Pakistani (1.4%)

Trafford



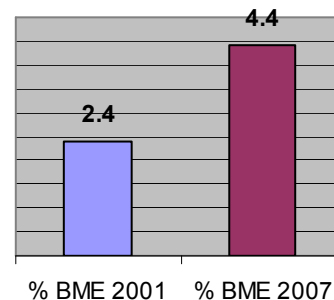
- The overall population is slightly higher but the BME population has risen by 3.6% between 2001 and 2007

Tameside



- The largest BME communities are Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi and White: Other

Wigan



- The largest populations of BME groups are White:other, White: Irish, Indian and Black African

GREATER MANCHESTER BME NETWORK

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The BASIS2 newsletter and e-bulletin 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-bulletin is monthly 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).

Greater Manchester BME Network

c/o MCCR

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