



# Newsletter

Issue 2, Oct - Dec 2009



The Greater Manchester BME Network works to strengthen networking of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) organisations and Refugee Community Organisations (RCO) across Greater Manchester and improve the standard of infrastructure support.

## GREATER MANCHESTER BME NETWORK

### Greater Manchester BME Network Project Launch

The much anticipated Greater Manchester BME Network launch was well received by stakeholders from all ten local districts at St. James' Centre on Wednesday 14th October.

Key speakers at the event included Sharon Jones from the Big Lottery Fund, Atiha Chaudry, Chair of the Manchester BME Network and the BASIS 2 Steering Group, and Hakeel Qureshi, Project Coordinator for the Greater Manchester BME Network.



The event also saw a musical performance by the West African Development drumming group.

For more information on West African Development please email [admin@westafricandevlopment.org.uk](mailto:admin@westafricandevlopment.org.uk) or visit [www.westafricandevlopment.org.uk](http://www.westafricandevlopment.org.uk)

### Project Priority Areas for Year One

As part of the Greater Manchester BME Network BASIS 2 Project we are going to focus our activities on three districts of Greater Manchester each year. All our events and training modules will be carried out in these priority districts. Those districts that have not been selected as priority areas will still be able to contact the Network for support and make use of the resources, such as the website, that will be available in the new year. The Year One priority areas that have been selected are: **Oldham, Stockport and Trafford.**

## Greater Manchester BME Network Products

Greater Manchester BME Network will be delivering a range of products throughout the ten districts over the next three years. The products on offer are:

- Road Shows
- Multi-stakeholder Events
- An e-Newsletter
- A Website
- Training
- A “Dragon’s Den” Event

Some of these products are already available; this is the second issue of our quarterly e-newsletter and we have held two multi-stakeholder events so far this year. The remaining products will be available sometime in the New Year. We hope for the website to be live by the end of March 2010, with the Dragon’s Den event being held around the same time. Training begins in January 2010.

The Greater Manchester BME Network training consists of 6 topics:

1. Governance
2. Management

3. Fundraising
4. Networking
5. Representation
6. Partnership and Collaboration

The first run of training will be held in Oldham, Stockport and Trafford with a training module each month up to and including June 2010. So far training modules have been arranged for the following dates:

- ◆ Tuesday February 2nd – **Fundraising** (Walthew House, Stockport)
- ◆ Monday February 15th – **Governance** (Voluntary Action Oldham, Oldham)
- ◆ Tuesday March 16th – **Partnership and Collaboration** (Isobel Baillie Lodge, Trafford)

For further information on training and booking enquiries please contact Hakeel on 0161 227 0675 or [hqureshi@mccr.org.uk](mailto:hqureshi@mccr.org.uk)

## REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

### CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Let Them Work

- On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009, some Refugee & Migrant Forum members addressed the annual North West TUC women's conference about the campaign. 80 women trade unionists from a wide range of different unions were present to hear about the difficulties faced by women seeking sanctuary in the UK, who have been refused permission to work. The conference organisers welcomed the Forum's contribution to the event.
- Over the summer Forum members and supporters met with Greater Manchester MPs to ask them to sign an Early Day Motion, which seeks government approval for asylum seekers to work in the UK if their claim remains unresolved after six months.

Please contact Sophie Fosker for more information: 07854 278232 or [forum@mrsn.org.uk](mailto:forum@mrsn.org.uk)

## Consultation Invitation: have your say on the development and strategy of Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN)

**When:** 5pm-8pm, Tuesday 12th January

**Where:** New premises at Phoneix Mill, 20 Piercy Street, Ancoats, M4 7HY

MRSN is the largest refugee led charity in Greater Manchester, offering a wide range of services to refugee community members and hosting the Refugee and Migrant Forum. We are keen that refugee community members inform our on-going development.

For more information contact Max Edwards at [max@mrsn.org.uk](mailto:max@mrsn.org.uk) or on 07983 415291

### NEWSFEED: Salford RCO Forum

Set up by members of Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs), Salford Community and Voluntary Services (CVS) and interested stakeholders in September 2009, the Salford RCO Forum has recently had its third meeting. At this event, attendees discussed the aims and objectives of the Forum. It was provisionally agreed that the Forum will aim to:

- influence and advise mainstream service providers to be inclusive
- strengthen interconnectivity between RCOs and stakeholders
- increase the voice of RCOs and Migrants in decision making
- encourage meaningful participation and effective integration in the wider community

Greater Manchester BME Network contributed to the meeting and is committed to supporting Salford CVS to keep the Forum running and help to meet its goals.

The next Salford RCO Forum meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 8th December** from 5-7pm at the Training Room, Salford CVS, The Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Eccles M30 0FN.

Please contact **Donna Cottrell (RCO Development Worker)** for more details: **0161 787 7795** or [donna.cottrell@salfordcvs.co.uk](mailto:donna.cottrell@salfordcvs.co.uk)

### Refugee & Migrant Forum Event: Accessing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Greater Manchester BME Network was present at this event held by Refugee & Migrant Forum, which aimed to increase awareness amongst the refugee and asylum seeker community of Manchester City Council's (MCC) new approach to ESOL.

Representatives from MCC, The Manchester College and Learning, Skills and Employment Network were invited to speak to and answer any questions from the Forum. The main messages were:

- changes to ESOL in the city are part of a new, central government scheme on integration
- MCC is to agree in the coming weeks which the priority groups of ESOL learners will be
- The Manchester College is now only offering Level 3 ESOL courses

Members of the Forum responded with concerns over a perceived contradiction in ESOL places being cut whilst there being increased pressure on refugees and migrants to learn English in order to gain UK citizenship. The event was a fantastic opportunity for members to articulate possible improvements to the panel, which hopefully will inform future decisions on ESOL provision.

Please contact **Sophie Fosker** for more information: see previous details

## The BASIS Project - Intensive Support for RCOs

Are you a Refugee Community Organisation (RCO)? Do you work with or support RCOs? Do you know of an RCO that would benefit from intensive one-to-one support? Then BASIS is the project for you!

BASIS is a national project that provides support, advice and training for refugee organisations. The project concentrates on training and support in 4 key areas; Fundraising, Financial Management, Governance & Project Management.

A partnership project led by Refugee Council and Refugee Action, the BASIS Project is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. In Greater Manchester the project is delivered by Refugee Action. The project worker is Fergal McCullough. Fergal's job is to provide support for RCOs that is tailored to really address RCOs' needs, through information products and toolkits, one-to-one support, group training, networking opportunities and seminars.

More info can be found at the project's website: <http://www.thebasisproject.org.uk/> or contact Fergal on 0161 - 831 5460 or at: [fergalm@refugee-action.org.uk](mailto:fergalm@refugee-action.org.uk)

## School of Participation for Refugee & Asylum Seeker Organisations in Salford

**Date:** Saturday 16th & Saturday 23rd January 2010

**Location:** Pendleton Gateway, 1 Broadwalk, Pendleton, Salford, M6 5FX

**Cost:** Free (childcare provision and travel expenses can be pre-arranged)

**Details and bookings:** Contact Anne Stewart on 0161 236 9321 or [annecpu@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:annecpu@church-poverty.org.uk) & visit [www.takepartsalford.org.uk](http://www.takepartsalford.org.uk)

## NOTICEBOARD

### Grassroots Grants: for BME organisations across Greater Manchester

Community Foundation for Greater Manchester distributes many types of funds to voluntary and community organisations across Greater Manchester including Grassroots Grants. Aimed at small local voluntary and community groups and organisations with an average income of less than £30,000 over the past three years; grants of between £250 and £5000 are available. Community Foundation are keen to get more applications from and award more money to BME voluntary and community groups.

In order to apply for the fund your organisation or community group must be aiming to improve circumstances for people in communities within one of the ten districts of Greater Manchester and it must meet specific eligibility criteria.

Community Foundation have now allotted money to each district in Greater Manchester for the next year and we would encourage you to apply for a grant as soon as possible. Let us know how your applications progress and your feedback and views on the process.

Visit [www.communityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.communityfoundation.co.uk) or ring 0161 214 0940 for more details on how to apply.

## THE CHEST - an e-procurement website for the North West

The Chest is a new shared electronic procurement portal created for all North West's Local Authorities, replacing individual local authority procurement. It allows you to register or search for procurement opportunities across the North West. According to the NW Centre of Excellence, who paid for the portal, it "brings together buyers and suppliers making it easier for organisations to find out about new sources of potential revenue and to grow and develop to the benefit of the local economy".

The portal is mainly for private sector supply of goods, but includes the supply of Social Community Care and Education and Training Services. Some local authorities have indicated that they intend to transfer all future tendering to this portal. In order to have access to information on the website, you can register your organisations for free, allowing you to receive email updates on new procurement opportunities. As this portal is a new venture, we would welcome your views and feedback on how it works.

Visit [www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk](http://www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk) for more information and to register your organisation.

## Committee members needed for Salford BME Forum!

Do you live in Salford and want to represent the needs of the BME communities in the area? Then volunteer to become a committee member for the Salford BME Forum.

The BME forum is a voluntary sector umbrella organisation that acts a conduit for Black and Ethnic Minority groups in Salford. Our present membership comprises of 70 BME organisations, representing the diverse communities of Salford.

We do specific work and engage members of the BME communities in Salford focusing on health, mental health, education, parenting, children and young people, crime and safety and housing.

If you are interested and want to find out more about this opportunity, then please speak to Liz Cameron on 07846943121 or email [salford.BME.forum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:salford.BME.forum@hotmail.co.uk)

## Planning Ahead: Are you ready to face the future? (Voice4Change)

**Date:** Tues 26th January 2010

**Location:** The Drum, Birmingham

**Cost:** Free

**Details:** This event looks at the future for the BME third sector and how planning ahead is essential for a strong BME third sector. This event is to share the research being undertaken by NCVO's Third Sector Foresight to research the key trends (drivers) that affect the BME third sector. This event would be useful for leaders in the BME third sector that are interested in how a reduction in public funding and the general election might impact upon their organisation.

**Bookings:** Register your interest in attending with Jemma Grieve: [Jemma@voice4change-england.co.uk](mailto:Jemma@voice4change-england.co.uk)

## Diversity: Making it real (NAVCA)

**Date:** Tuesday 16th February 2010

**Location:** Manchester

**Cost:** £49

**Details:** This introductory session will help to develop the personal knowledge and skills of development workers to tackle inequality and discrimination within their own organisation and the organisations that they support. Topics covered include: discrimination & oppression, the promotion of social justice, equal opportunities & diversity, UK legislation, practical strategies to put things into action.

**Bookings:** download and complete form found on [www.navca.org.uk/services/learningopps/skild/training/diversity16feb.htm](http://www.navca.org.uk/services/learningopps/skild/training/diversity16feb.htm)

## Small Organisations Masterclass: Key tools to run your organisation more efficiently (ACEVO)

**Date:** Thursday 18th February 2010

**Location:** Manchester

**Cost:** £25 (members) £35 (non-members)

**Details:** This masterclass is aimed at Chief Officers and Senior Managers of organisations. Topics covered include: surviving financial crisis, mergers/partnerships, maximizing funding, best practice HR and effective PR. The main outcome is to walk away with some concrete ideas on how to streamline your organisation.

**Bookings:** visit [www.acevo.org.uk](http://www.acevo.org.uk) or email [events@acevo.org.uk](mailto:events@acevo.org.uk) for more details

## Managing a Community Building (GMCVO)

**Date:** Wed 20th January 2010

**Location:** St Thomas Centre, Manchester

**Cost:** £40 VCS orgs, £60 statutory orgs

**Details:** This programme is aimed at staff, volunteers and trustees that manage or have responsibility for community centres/buildings or other community facilities. Areas covered include: what makes a successful building, legal responsibilities, health & safety, maintenance, managing people within the building, developing enterprise/income, finances, sources of support.

## CONTACT

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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).