



# HARROGATE & DISTRICT MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM

## Newsletter Spring 2008

### First Forum Meeting has taken place

The first meeting of this Forum was held at the St Robert's Centre in Harrogate and 33 representatives from a range of agencies attended. Introductions were made and **Hazel McGrath** provided feedback on issues raised by the Ripon BME Forum, such as the need for clear communication on county-wide issues, for example Action Learning sets.

**Louise Cousins** (Minority Ethnic Project Development Worker) gave an update on her work so far, including provision of ESOL classes (90 bookings taken to date) and focus group work with migrant worker families at Grove Road School. Louise also reminded those present that the Project is not just about migrant workers, but all minority ethnic communities, including settled communities.

**Nigel Phillips** (Fire and Rescue Service) and **Geoff Crocker** (North Yorkshire Police) stressed the need for collaborative working and highlighted recent achievements, including the supply of adaptors for electrical appliances to address home safety issues.

**Kay Ritchie** (NYCC) explained the ways in which the county council is addressing the issues around minority ethnic groups through its Equality and Diversity Policy, whilst **Fiona Friday** (Harrogate Borough Council) reported on the revised Equality and Diversity Action Plan and proposed training programmes for frontline workers.

The Forum members then worked in three groups, to discuss engagement, information sharing and the development of a Minority Ethnic Support Group.

The Key Points from the meeting highlighted the need to:

- ◆ hold a multi-agency awareness and information event
- ◆ establish an E group for future sharing of good practice
- ◆ address the changing nature of minority ethnic communities and ensure that the needs of settled communities and refugees/asylum seekers, as well as migrant workers, are met
- ◆ build confidence
- ◆ improve data collection on current population trends
- ◆ provide information and training for frontline workers, eg cultural awareness
- ◆ promote and provide language classes (ESOL) as one of the keys to engagement
- ◆ support minority ethnic individuals to engage with each other and form self-help type groups

The following people attended the first Forum meeting:

Anne Ablas—Harrogate CVS  
Humph Baker—Churches Together  
Carol Barber—Harrogate CAB  
Julie Blaisdale—NYCC Information Services  
Louise Cousins—Harrogate CVS  
Gary Craig—Hull University  
Geoff Crocker—NY Police  
Nina Derbyshire—Carers' Resource  
Fiona Friday—Harrogate BC  
Jane Guymer—NY Police  
Fazeela Hafejee—Opal Consultancy  
Samantha Hartley—NYCC  
Mark Hopley—Harrogate CVS  
Andrea Hutton—Harrogate BC  
Charlotte Kruger—The Hope Centre  
Safeera Mayet—Opal Consultancy  
Hazel McGrath—Harrogate CVS  
Nina Muir—Harrogate CVS  
Alison Noble  
Ursula Nowis—NHS  
Nigel Phillips—NY Fire & Rescue Service  
Eva Pratley—Ripon CAB  
Gerard Prior—Harrogate BC  
Kay Ritchie—NYCC  
Vernon Roosevelt—Hope Centre  
Jenny Sengel—Carers' Resource  
Caroline Shead—Harrogate Volunteer Centre  
Angela Skeels—HDFT  
Pat Sloss—NYY PCT  
Alex Sobel—UNLTD  
Fiona Tetley—NY Police  
Janice Turner—St Anne's Community Services  
Eryl Welton—NYY PCT

For further information on the Forum or to join the mailing list contact Anne Ablas at Harrogate CVS. Tel: 01423 504074 Email: [anne@harrogate.org](mailto:anne@harrogate.org).  
For further information about the Minority Ethnic Development Project, contact Louise Cousins at Harrogate CVS Tel: 01423 504074  
Email: [Louise@harrogate.org](mailto:Louise@harrogate.org)



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# Update from Ripon and Rural District BME Group

The Ripon and Rural District BME Forum was formed by Ripon CVS after a number of local organisations had expressed an interest in working together to identify the needs of people from black and ethnic minority groups living in the area. The Ripon & Rural District Forum is part of and feeds information into the Harrogate District-wide Minority Ethnic Forum and is in contact with groups working across the county.

## Charity Fair on Monday 26 May, Ripon Spa Park

This group is co-ordinating a "Community Information Stall" at the Spring Bank Holiday Charity Fair. It will include local information for the whole community, with leaflets and poster displays from all agencies and some of the information will be translated into other languages.

There will also be the added attraction of a belly dancer, who will be giving lessons.

This is an opportunity for people from all ethnic/cultural backgrounds to see what is on offer in Ripon. It also offers an opportunity for us to gain more awareness of people's needs and interests.

The Ripon BME Group would be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to help, or would like to have information displayed. Otherwise, please visit the stall on the day.

## Autumn Social Event

The Ripon BME Forum plans to hold a social event in the Autumn. Details to be released soon!

## New Members Welcome

The group is currently looking for members from ethnic minorities who wish to become involved with the work of the Forum.

For further details please contact Lynette Barnes, Director Ripon CVS on 01765 603631 or email [info@riponcvs.co.uk](mailto:info@riponcvs.co.uk).



## Worker Registration Scheme

This scheme was introduced in 2004 when new countries joined the European Union. It allows us to monitor where citizens of those countries (except Malta and Cyprus) are coming into our labour market, the type of work they are doing, and the impact this has on our economy.

Migrants will normally have to register under the Worker Registration Scheme if they wish to work for an employer in the United Kingdom for more than one month and are a citizen of:

Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia or Slovenia. There are some exceptions.

Once they have been working in the United Kingdom legally for 12 months without a break in employment, they will no longer have to register on the Worker Registration Scheme. They can then obtain a residence permit confirming their right to live and work in the United Kingdom.

More information available on [www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk)

## Some dates for your Diary

### Polish mass at St Robert's Church, Harrogate



The next two dates are  
1 June and 6 July.

Mass in Polish at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments and get-together.

**All Welcome!**

### Harrogate Minority Ethnic Forum Meetings 2008

Tuesday 1 July, 10am—1.30pm  
**Coyningham Hall, Knaresborough**

Wednesday 8 October, 10.00am—1.30pm  
**Venue to be confirmed**

**Please reserve your place, as lunch will be provided.**

