

# Harrogate District Minority Ethnic Forum

Wednesday 29 April 2009

## NEWSLETTER

The Forum meeting was held at Knaresborough Children's Centre and Mark Hopley, CVS Deputy Director welcomed 22 representatives from a range of agencies and NHS North Yorkshire and York for sponsoring the event.

**Louise Cousins, Minority Ethnic Development Worker** gave an update on her work to present; which includes organising a weekly Coffee Morning for Migrant Workers from 9 am – 11am at Harrogate Fire Station until July. Louise asked if those present could help to promote the coffee mornings to migrant workers (see attached flyer in English/Polish). Building on last years Community Information Fair, the Community Health Day on 6 June will help people new to the area to become aware of the wide range of local services available from both the NHS and local partners.



### **Credit Union**

Trish Mathews from the Credit Union came to talk about the launch of North Yorkshire Credit Union from 16 May 2009. Everyone in North Yorkshire will be able to manage their money by joining the North Yorkshire Credit Union which has been formed by extending York Credit Union. Members can save up to £10,000 and these savings will be protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. All profits are returned to the member shareholders as an annual dividend. It will give people who have found it difficult to open a bank account the option of having a savings account and also enable people in those circumstances the option to borrow at reasonable rates of interest rather than turning to door step lenders and loan sharks. The Credit Union has a significant number of members who just save with the initiative in order to bolster funds available for lending and to earn a dividend.

### **CAB**

Carol Barber talked about the diverse work of the CAB and how local organisations can help improve access to advice for all communities. CAB offer Online advice at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) for practical, reliable, up-to-date information including frequently asked questions in many languages on a wide range of topics and there are helpful factsheets available to download. Carol recommends referral for clients to this information in the first instance if they are closed or unavailable. CAB are swamped with the need for financial advice due to the economic downturn. CAB recognise that whilst the fact sheets can help answer some questions many people may still need face to face advice. Their offices are open 5 days a week and they take pre-bookable appointments, telephone enquiries and deal with those that walk in and ask to be seen. Over 486 people from minority ethnic communities contacted CAB in the last year with some contacting the service more than once. Enquiries range from education to returning to country of origin due to the credit crunch.

## **NY Police**

### **Third Party Hate Crime Reporting**

Geoff Crocker has been giving Third Party Hate Crime Reporting training to staff at a number of agencies including CAB, CVS and Libraries in the district which will become Reporting Centres. Victims of Hate Incidents can report matters in a safe and friendly environment rather than at a Police Station. Incidents can include prejudice or hate due to someone's race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender or age.

### **Fire & Rescue**

Jonathan Foster talked about the work the service had been doing with their 4 Watches to build closer links with Migrant Workers and promote road and fire safety. They have built strong links in the Polish Community and have produced a promotional powerpoint presentation in Polish to promote fire and road safety. A recruitment/awareness session was recently held in Boroughbridge and 5 people from the Polish community attended. Further efforts to break down barriers are taking place in the form of a football match in September. Fire and Rescue will also be attending the Health Information Day on 6 June to promote home safety. The Fire and Rescue service also accommodate the Coffee Mornings being held every Friday 9 am – 11 am at the Harrogate Station until 10 July.

### **NHS North Yorkshire and York Community Health Day**

Pat Sloss promoted the Health Information Day that is being organised by Harrogate CVS and sponsored by NHS North Yorkshire and York, Harrogate Foundation Trust, Police and Fire and Rescue. There will be 6-8 stands from NHS Harrogate Foundation Trust, information on giving up smoking, Drugs & Alcohol, Mental Health wellbeing, Sexual Health, Change for Life, Ambulance Service, Police, Fire & Rescue, Library and Housing. To book a stall please contact [carol@harrogate.org](mailto:carol@harrogate.org) for your booking form.

### **Ripon BME Forum**

Lynette Barnes has run some BME events with low attendance, this needs reviewing and more promotion to get more active participation. If there is enough funding they are looking to hold a cultural youth event in the autumn. There is a Ripon International Festival in September and they may join in with that.

**BME VOICE Newspaper** The first issue of the BME Voice newspaper has been launched, read it at <http://www.bme.org.uk/news>. The newspaper aims to provide a platform for the Yorkshire and Humber BME voluntary and community sector to showcase the wonderful work it does, and also a platform for regional & local organisations to communicate with the sector. You are also invited to submit stories, event details, staff recruitment on the BME website <http://www.bme.org.uk>

### **Stonham**

Lucia Makiwa brought attention to Stonham's Open Day on Wednesday 13 May and encouraged everyone to attend the event. Lucia highlighted the work of Tenancy Support Services and how they help their tenants to: access training, sort out rent and bills, manage their money and look after their home amongst many other things.



## **North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership**

### **Welcome Pack**

Deborah Hugill explained that Tom Bryant from NYCC is updating and producing more Welcome Pack posters, business cards, book marks. Attendees were asked to offer ideas regarding where to promote the welcome pack and these will be fed through to Tom.

### **Ripon Library**

Caroline King spoke on behalf of Greg Kubas regarding promoting the Home Library and Information Service, which they will be emailing out shortly. The Home Library service provides free home delivery of books and audio books to people who find it difficult to get to their local library. Volunteers are also needed to help this service by delivering to those at home. There are lots of adults and children's books in Polish. For further information contact Greg Kubas at [Greg.Kubas@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Greg.Kubas@northyorks.gov.uk) or call 01609 538402.

**Handouts given at the meeting and are attached with this email Newsletter or available from Carol Gaiger at CVS:**

**ME Coffee Morning** – every week

**Credit Union** – Project Newsletter March 09 & Presentation by Trish Mathews

**Stonham** - Open Day and Tenancy Support Services

**Racial Justice in North Yorkshire (Rajiny)**- Organisation providing a voice for Black and Minority ethnic individuals in North Yorkshire seeking views from partners.

**Hate Incident Reporting Centres**- information on the action you can take and how reporting centres can help you.

**Introduction to Islam & the Muslim Culture Course**, 15 & 16 July 2009, Jennyfield Styan Community Centre, Grantley Drive, Harrogate

**Age Concern** – Keen to hear the voices of Black and minority ethnic communities.

### **Extra Information:**

**Harrogate District Strategic Partnership Annual Conference**, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009

9.00am to 2.00pm, Pavilions of Harrogate, Yorkshire Events Centre, Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate.

The Next Minority Ethnic Forum has been arranged for **Wednesday 15 July, 10am – 2.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Strayside Wing, Harrogate District Hospital.**

For further information contact Carol Gaiger at Harrogate CVS 01423 504074 email [carol@Harrogate.org](mailto:carol@Harrogate.org).