

Harrogate District Minority Ethnic Forum

Spring 2011

NEWSLETTER

The Forum meeting was held on Thursday 20 January 2011, at Harrogate College and Mark Hopley, CVS Deputy Director welcomed 26 representatives from a range of agencies and thanked Harrogate College for providing the venue and refreshments.

The theme of the forum was faith/belief and getting to know the local faith groups in the Harrogate district and their issues around engaging with local services. Representatives attended from the Jewish Community, Humanist, Buddhism and Churches Together organisations. Each gave a brief overview of their faith or belief and then the Forum broke out into three discussion groups to find out if there were any unmet needs in the community and how to involve faith groups in service provision in future.

Buddhist Howard Quinn www.dechen.org

Buddhism is a religion and philosophy encompassing a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices, largely based on teachings by Buddha ("the awakened one"). There are meditation classes held in Harrogate, as well as national events, which can attract up to 150 people.



Churches Together www.ctharrogate.org.uk

Churches Together in Harrogate is a forum in which all the various churches in Harrogate can come together to work towards common goals and in all areas of Christian life. Christian churches within Harrogate meet together and put on events e.g. An annual celebration which attracts up to 400 people. Town Pastors provide a presence in the town centre between 9pm and 3am. Their events are open to people of any faith. They also work closely with homeless charities to help vulnerable people.



Humanist Brian Quinn www.humanism.org.uk

Humanists seek to live good lives without religious or superstitious beliefs. Our vision is of a world without religious privilege or discrimination. We promote Humanism, campaign for an open society and a secular state, and work with others of different beliefs for the common good.



Jewish Philip Morris, Tel: 01423 879143, philip.morris@ukgateway.net
Harrogate Hebrew Congregation, St. Mary's Walk, Harrogate HG2 0LW
The Jewish community in Harrogate is declining in numbers, and a lot of this community are elderly.



Apologies were sent from the Muslim group as they were unable to join us at this forum, for further information visit www.harrogatemuslimsassociation.org.uk.

Our final speaker at the forum was Rita Sanderson, Chief Officer, York Racial Equality Network (YREN). Rita explained that YREN provided independent, impartial information and mutual support to black and minority ethnic individuals. They promote awareness, develop links with statutory, private, voluntary and community agencies. For further information contact Rita at 20 Falsgrave Crescent, York YO30 7AZ Tel: 01904 642600 or email: info@yren.co.uk.

Faith Discussion

Discussion took place in small groups around whether faith /beliefs are taken account of in service provision –what we could improve, and what works well. Some of the points made were:

Diet –Provision is variable. Schools are reasonably good in providing appropriate school meals. Hospitals can be more difficult to get dietary needs met.

Prayer – Some places have prayer space (e.g. the hospital). Harrogate College are working on this.

Primary schools don't generally have this provision, some senior schools may have. In general it was felt it would be good to have a quiet space, which could be used for prayer or reflection.

Mental Health – Our approach to mental health services is not seen as appropriate by some people within certain faiths. People may be encouraged to access support from within their faith, rather than to engage with mental health services. Some of the language used, and concepts of mental health in our society can lead to stigma and a lack of understanding of the service provision. Also the importance of faith for people's mental health is not always recognised – an example was given of someone on a psychiatric ward being very distressed as they didn't have access to their prayer book. There was discussion over whether chaplains in Hospitals and prisons should be paid for by these organisations, and if there is equitable provision for all faiths/ beliefs.

The Jewish Community have some specific needs around diet. Another requirement is around death i.e. the need for quick burials. The police are felt to work well with them now, and be supportive where any need does arise for a police presence.

Where to find information about faith groups?

NYCC and the Libraries hold information about local faith groups/ places of worship.

Future of the Forum

The forum has been funded during 2010 by the Migration Impact Fund [MIF] a national budget to help manage the short term impacts of migration on local communities. This funding stream has now ended and in the current climate it has not been possible to secure funding to keep the forum going in its current format. Helen Jillings the Minority Ethnic Worker is currently working six hours per week and this support will finish at the end of March.

Harrogate & Area CVS would welcome any ideas from Forum members about how to continue the work of the forum but in a different format as we will no longer have a dedicated worker. There are two further forum dates left in the calendar, 16 June and 24 November, which CVS are willing to administer but are looking for a partner to provide the leadership for a meeting, venue and teas/coffees. We currently have an offer from the Gangmasters Licensing Authority to attend a forum meeting in 2011. If you would like to make an offer to host either of these meetings, then please call Mark Hopley on 01423 504074.

News Updates from local organisations

Mark Hopley passed around the group a copy of the Harrogate, Local Migration Profile, Issue 3 - December 2010 from Yorkshire & Humber Regional Migration Partnership. The document highlights that the overall number of new migrant workers arriving in the Harrogate district continues to fall, mainly due to fewer Polish arrivals. The most common industry is hospitality and catering, employing 40% of new workers. There are no asylum seekers housed in Harrogate through the Home Office dispersal system. There are very small numbers of refugees who have moved here independently.

Helen Jillings, Minority Ethnic Project Development Worker reported that the Harrogate International Evening event that was held at St Roberts Centre on Monday 18 October was attended by over 30 people. The event aimed to provide information to new/recent arrivals on how to access local services especially those that relate to health, education, leisure and personal safety. Heather Stocks, Minority Ethnic Achievement Hub Specialist at Grove Road School, had received some excellent feedback from Minority Ethnic parents that had attended the event.

North Yorkshire Chinese Community Group

The North Yorkshire Chinese Community Group are holding a Chinese New Year celebration on Tuesday 8 February, 6.00pm at Horoscope Restaurant in Harrogate. At the time of producing this newsletter all tickets had sold out.



Multifaith Training

The Minority Ethnic Project organised a Multifaith Training session to cover Muslim, Buddhism and Judaism faiths on Thursday 25 November 2010 at Harrogate Library. Despite the snowy weather the training was well attended and favourable comments received.

Harrogate Library

Harrogate Library has been fully reopened in the refurbished Victoria Avenue building since October. The refurbished library now includes meeting rooms available for hire. A programme of events to celebrate the reopening is running until March, full details at www.northyorks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10606&p=0. Tel: 0845 034 9520
Email: harrogate.library@northyorks.gov.uk or www.northyorks.gov.uk/harrogatelibrary

A number of ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) courses are being run at the Harrogate Library in conjunction with adult education in early 2011, these include:
Conversation, 4 weeks, Mondays, 11-1pm, 28/2/11 to 21/3/11
Employability, 4 weeks, Mondays, 6.30-8.30pm, 28/2/11 to 21/3/11
Pronunciation masterclass, 4 weeks, Thursdays, 1-3pm, 10/3/11 to 31/3/11
Get to know your local area, 6 weeks, Mondays, 10-12pm, 6/6/11 to 11/7/11
Chinese New Year, family crafts event taking place at Harrogate Library on 13th February at 12-2pm.

Starbeck Library

Starbeck Library opens at Starbeck Central on 7th February at 1pm. Starbeck School's African Drumming Band will be there and refreshments will be served by Bake Well.

Forthcoming events at Ripon Library

Holocaust Memorial Day books display 24/01/11 - 05/02/11
Police Story time Wednesday 23/02/11 10.30am - 11.30am
Local History and Family Fair 24/03/11 10am - 4pm

For more information about the events contact Ripon Library on 0845 034 9524.

Engage in North Yorkshire is a NYCC online, community information directory that allows communities to organise, create and publish details of clubs, organisations and groups. For more information please log on to: <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/engage>

Library Consultation

There is a public consultation about the future delivery of library and information services in North Yorkshire, following the 28 per cent budget cut over a four-year period as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

This equates to a cut of £2.3million out of a current library budget of £7.5million. The "front-loading" of these cuts means that £1.1million needs to be saved during 2011/12. The consultation runs from 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011. For more information go to www.northyorks.gov.uk.



Census 2011

Government and local authorities depend on census information to help make sure that the services needed in our community are provided and that means asking questions of a lot of people. So on 27 March 2011, every household in England and Wales must complete a census questionnaire. Everyone needs to take part, including you! For more information go online at www.2011.census.gov.uk.

Stonham HomeStay

Stonham HomeStay (Homeless Prevention Service) Telephone: 01423 561800
The service offers support through visiting Project Workers, telephone advice and at local Drop-In services. Information and advice on, any aspect of tenancy, benefits, utilities and budgeting.

Ripon ~ The Arches, Holy Trinity Church, Kirby Rd, Ripon HG4 2EY (working in conjunction with Ripon MIND offices) – every Wednesday 11.30am to 1.30pm.

Harrogate ~ Springboard Project, Wesley Chapel House, Oxford Street, Harrogate (around the back of the Wesley Chapel, opposite the Jubilee car park entrance). – every Wednesday 12.00 noon till 2.00pm.

Harrogate ~ Housing Options, Victoria Park House, 18 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate – every Tuesday 12.00 noon till 1.30pm.

Harrogate College

Harrogate College is currently running a certificate in Equality and Diversity (Distance Learning) that covers Exploring Equality and Diversity, Prejudice and Discrimination, Peoples Rights and Responsibilities. For further information contact the Courses Information Team on 01423 878211.

Ripon Polish School Club

From December 2010 Ripon Polish School Club meets regularly on Saturday mornings 10am-12 noon at St Wilfrids RC Primary, Church Lane, Ripon, HG4 2ES. The club is community run and more information can be obtained from St Wilfrids RC Primary, please contact Headmaster Peter Burdekin, Telephone/Fax 01765 603232 or e-mail: admin@riponst-wilfrids.n-yorks.sch.uk.

For further information about the Minority Ethnic Development Project
contact Helen Jillings at Harrogate CVS 01423 504074
email Helen@harrogatecvs.org.uk

