



PRESS RELEASE

Issued by: Friday 5 February 2010

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8 February 2010

The Service through Partnership Official Launch Black & Minority Ethnic Voluntary Sector Support Services

The Service through Partnership project was launched at the Light House in Wolverhampton, on Thursday 28th January 2010.

The event was well attended by both voluntary and public sector professionals which included the STP partnership consortium members;

- The Centre for Equality and Diversity
- Telford Race, Equality and Diversity Partnership
- Rights Equality West Midlands
- Race Equality Sandwell
- Wolverhampton Citywide BME
- Consortium of Local Infrastructure Organisations

At the launch the Infrastructure Manager, Patricia Wright gave an overview of the project. She explained that the project hoped to address some of the issues faced by many BME led voluntary and community groups, by providing beneficiaries with:

- A one-to-one tailored support service for organisations/groups who participate
- Training workshops and learning opportunities

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- Peer group mentoring
- An online information service

These points were also re-iterated by the two guest speakers, Nandini Das and Arjumand Kazmi, from the national organisation Voice4Change England, who gave their perspective on the challenges for the BME sector.

The Service through Partnership project is funded by the BIG Lottery BASIS 2 capacity building programme and will last for 5 years. It is designed to provide opportunity, leadership and resources to the BME sector and will be delivered over the geographical areas of Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Telford and Wrekin.

There will be a series of localised events in each of the delivery areas over the next coming months which aim to engage with local BME organisations across the partner areas. Therefore, if you wish to get involved at one of these events or want to know more about the STP project please contact, Julie Symons, Infrastructure Support Officer on Tel. 01384 456 166 or via email julie.symons@cfed.org.uk.

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---NOTES FOR EDITORS---

For further information contact Julie Symons Infrastructure Support Officer on 01384 456 166 or julie.symons@cfed.org.uk