



What's Inside..

- Neighbourhood & community decision making training
- Unemployment on the rise amongst BME groups
- Effective community engagement workshop.
- Become a Trustee
- Community Organiser Programme
- Breaking bread breaking barriers
- NHS Community development workers
- The age of migration
- Dudley Senior Citizen Forum
- How to contact us

Neighbourhood and community decision making training.

20 representatives from Tenants and Residents Association (TRAs) and members from migrant groups attended the Neighbourhood and Decision Making course organised by the 5 Estatesplus Project on Wednesday 29th January 2012 at the Brambles in Dudley. The course was delivered by Dr Electra from Eureka Associate and aimed to provide participants skills and knowledge needed to engage in community decision making process.



The training supported people from migrant groups and representatives from the TRAs to develop greater awareness and an understanding of different cultures.

Participants explored the benefits of integration in relation to community decision making and how this could enhance community cohesion.

One participant said "...I learn more about the process of decision making regarding communication and neighbourhood".

Role play activities was encouraged and this helped participants to realise how easy it is to participate in the decision making process within their community.

The training offered an opportunity to look at the power behind integration and community engagement from both TRAs and the migrant communities' perspective. *An other participant said "the presentation about migrants' integration was powerful.."*

This was a good opportunity for individuals to explore the benefits of taking part in community activities; they explored how decisions are taken in the community, the diamond of participatory decision making mode.

The learning process was supported through group discussions. Jean Elemba said "this has been a very interesting course, the discussion about what stops people to involve in TRAs was very constructive.

If you would like to be updated or get involved in our future activities, please get in touch with us through the Centre for Equality and Diversity

Effective Community Engagement workshop.

Why and how to engage with communities. And how good is our community engagement, were some of the questions discussed during the Effective Community Engagement workshop held on Wednesday, 4th April.

The facilitator Helen Thompson focused on community involvement and engagement techniques. 19 people from various TRA's and member of the migrant communities attend this course. Participants explored barriers to effective community engagement such as lack of information, difficulties in the use of English, especially for the migrant communities, and the lack of awareness of the change within neighbourhoods making it more difficult for new communities to get involved or be heard. Participants conclude that social events and community activities were ways of challenging negative stereotypes about migrant communities and promote effective community engagement.



At the end of the course, one participant, Reverend Charles Matondo said:

“ This course has been very interesting one as I believe that community engagement can encourage a sense of belonging which will also create considerable benefits from involving everyone and working together for our community.”

Highlights of CfED 2011/2012 achievements.

- In January 2012, 200 pupils in schools engaged in a Holocaust Memorial Day events
- 2 interns recruited via Graduate Advantage
- £50,000, plus secured by BME groups following support from CfED/ StP.
- 25 victims of hate crime received 1 to 1 assistance and support
- 126 attended StP training courses
- 800 people directly benefited by using the Community resources facilities
- 1 local voluntary sector organisation commissioned CfED to deliver Equality & Diversity training to its staff team
- 6,000 plus copies of CfEd Update newsletter circulated via email and hard copies
- 20 secondary schools received Holocaust Memorial Day materials for use in classroom lessons
- 1 conference held for committee members of local Tenants and Residents Associations
- 13 Service through Partnership (StP) training sessions held across, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Telford and Sandwell
- 12 press releases issued
- 1 young person given opportunity to undertake apprentice resources scheme placement
- 5 Community Organisers successfully recruited, trained, inducted and placed in respective localities across the borough

What is the Community Organiser programme?



The work of the community organisers are enabling people to take action on their own behalf and have the power and confidence to tackle the issues which are important to them, rather than wait for the local authority or the government to do it for them. COs will also enable people to make the most of new local community rights and opportunities to achieve their own aspirations.

How can I become involved?

1. Volunteer!

You can become involved by becoming a volunteer community organiser (VCO)

2. Share you ideas & experiences

Meet your local Community Organisers (CO), they are willing to have a chat. You can call or email a CO to arrange an informal discussion about your community.

3. Tell others

The community organisers programme relies upon local people, taking local action together. If you want to set up a community group, this programme can support you,

There are four community organisers in Dudley. There details are as follows;

Matt Johnson	Hawbush & Brierley Hill	Matthew.johnson@corganisers.org.uk	07854406200
Mel Kingsbury	Kates Hill & Dudley Town Centre	Melanie.kingsbury@corganisers.org.uk	07854406263
Abraham Bah	Shell Corner, Halesowen & Highfield Lane	Abraham.bah@corganisers.org.uk	07891176003
Terri Overland	Netherton	Terri.overland@corganisers.org.uk	07891176010

Unemployment on the rise amongst BME groups.

As the rate of unemployment continues to rise, there is a growing concern that the rate amongst black minority ethnic (BME) groups have risen much faster than their white counterparts. Reports after reports have recently suggest that the current recession has left almost one in two black people without a job. A paper presented on 13th April 2012 at the British sociological Association's annual conference in Leeds shows that in the last two recessions, unemployment among black British men was up to 19 percentage points higher than among those in America. Other information which shows the difference between black and white in terms of unemployment includes:

- ONS statistics show that more than half of Britain's young black men and 39% of women are jobless- more than the rate of young white people
- Unemployment among young black people has doubled in the last three years
- According to a study of 2,500 job seekers commissioned by the Face for Opportunity (RFO) black and minority ethnic candidates (BME) are denied interviews.
- In the past 12 months, 29% of black and minority ethnic (BME) candidates using recruitment consultancies were offered a job compared to 44% of white candidates.
- The current recession has left almost one in two people without a job.



A day in the life of a Community Organiser.

Breaking bread, breaking barriers.

As a Community Organiser, Wednesday 13th March 2012, was perhaps the most dodgy and yet the most interesting day that I have had thus far. As I stood in Brierley Hill (one of the most deprived areas in Dudley, I spoke to many local residents who passed by. I was surrounded by high rise flats and as I looked up a man shouted "what are you doing here?".

I shouted back "I'm a Community Organiser listening within your local community"

He said: "Alright mate want to come up for a cup of coffee and we will chat".

This sounds fantastic except this particular part of Brierley Hill is notorious for drugs and a high level of crime. I thought about it, followed my gut and I ended up on the third floor of these flats. As I came out the lift he was there to greet me. He escorted me to his room and as I looked to my right I saw one large knife and two seemingly SHAOLIN SWORDS!

He was a Kurdish man from Iraq, frustrated, emotionally torn and feeling isolated in his community. But being cautiously brave really gave me real insight into life within this community. I judged the situation carefully and believed that he meant me no harm. He laid out newspaper in the middle of the floor and asked me to sit. He then walked back into the room with a delicious Kurdish meal that he cooked the night before. We ate and broke bread. And, through this process we built trust between each other. Yet I couldn't help looking at his swords, but to be honest they did look kind of cool as a decor

We had such an interesting conversation. But it saddened me when he said: "It seems that when you're a foreigner, nobody cares about you. I have no say here".

Just going up to local people and listening drew him to me. He felt forgotten in his area, but there was somebody here who was willing to listen and this gave him hope. When people have been so marginalised and disengaged for so long, simply listening is such a powerful tool to bring about social change. I can't wait for our next chat. This is just the beginning, still a trainee, learning by doing. I am so excited about the changes that this programme will bring about in communities across the country.

Matthew Johnson
Community Organiser



The Age of Migration.

A report published by the Migration Policy Institute claims that large scale immigration has led to unprecedented levels of diversity around the globe, transforming communities in fundamental ways and challenging long and closely held notions of national identity. The report, published on Tuesday 1st May, suggest that political leaders find themselves having to navigate a tangled web of complex policy dilemmas, from how to respond to economic insecurity to how to continue to draw benefits from globalisation; to coming to terms with “hybrid identities” – all challenges that have caused enormous anxiety and even social interest.

On the issue of integration the report claims that the United Kingdom has not developed a formal integration programme, despite experiencing large-scale immigrant flows and settlement over the past 50 years.

“Integration is a dazzling and treacherous concept that policy makers must define with care as it means different things to different people with over lapping definitions dating from at least the 1930’s” states the report.

It concludes that integration will have succeeded when immigrants and their children have equal opportunities to compete for the same economic outcomes and can participate in social and political life on the same basis as their native counterparts. It believes that this can only happen if States invest in both targeted and mainstream policies in the two most important loci of integration; work places and schools.

The report also list 10 steps for fostering greater cohesiveness which includes, the recommendation that leaders must listen to and demonstrate that they understand the concerns of their electorate and the need to focus on all disadvantaged populations not just immigrants.

Log on at www.migrationpolicy.org/transatlantic for the full copy of the report.





Centre
For
Equality &
Diversity



The Centre for Equality & Diversity (CfED), based in the Borough of Dudley, is looking for new Trustees to join its board of directors.

CfED seeks to be a leading agency in changing attitudes, challenging inequalities, influencing policy and building partnerships to bring about a fairer society within areas in which we operate.

CfED was launched in 2006 and has developed a good reputation with BME communities, public and private sector organisations.

Following an organisational review we are looking for trustees who will help us meet the challenges of the future and take advantage of new opportunities.

We have vacancies for up to 4 Trustees. We are particularly interested to recruit trustees with expertise in community development, financial management, business development, fundraising and quality assurance.

- The Board meets 6 times per year—usually in the evenings
- New trustees will undergo an induction
- Directors are unpaid volunteers and may be entitled to claim expenses.

If you feel you could add to our important work then please send us your CV or a note saying what you think you may be able to offer.

Email: admin@cfed.org.uk

lead... influence... change

Registered charity in England 1114821 and company 5745005

Community Development Workers

Over the last 12 months, Community Development Workers (CDW) have been working on numerous projects across Dudley & Walsall. In innovative ways, these projects have worked to increase people's (individuals and communities) knowledge of mental health, and have helped to reduce stigma and discrimination attached to mental health.

Relaxation & Meditation sessions, with the Gujarati Community, the Walsall Well-being Project, A Visit to the International Slavery Museum, and Mental Health Awareness Workshops with the Elderly Community in Halesowen, are just some of the projects that have been carried out by the CDW Team.

The team also hold regular drop-in clinics, across various community settings, and have worked at increasing mental health awareness with young people. In addition to this the CDWs have worked on a Cultural Awareness Guide and Toolkit, which will be available to the Trust.

As part of the work done with the communities during Ramadan CDWs spent time on Radio Ramadan talking about mental health, local workshops and the foundation trust.



Community Development Workers have focused a lot of their work in the community but in the future plan to work more within the trust services, to help make services more accessible to black and minority ethnic (BME) groups.

Along with all the other work CDWs have been involved in, we have also been heavily involved in the membership drive in order for the trust to become a foundation trust.

Dudley Senior Citizens Forum

The Dudley Senior Citizens Forum (DSCF) is located within the Wellington Road Community Centre, near the centre of Dudley town. The organisation aims to provide or assist in provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare. The DSCF provide daycare provision for over 40 people per day Monday-Thursday each week. People aged 55 or over (45 for people with a disability or a mental health condition) are welcome to join the DSCF. Chairman Mr Amrik Singh, says that all members of the local community are welcome to join the forum and participate in its activities.

One of the member of the forum, Mr Bedi who himself is the founding member of the Brierley Hill Sikh Welfare Association has committed himself to raising funds for cancer sufferers across the Borough. Mr Bedi's wife died from the condition a few years ago and he has never forgotten the help and support received from local charities Mary Stevens Hospice and Dudley Cancer Support.

In the last year Mr Bedi had taken up the challenge of raising £1,479 for the two charities. He has held raffles, organised a football match and undertaken other activities to raise much needed funds. He has been able to fulfil his aim through the help of his friends, members of his family and the local community in which he is highly respected.

Mr Bedi would like to thank everyone who has helped and support him in raising thousands of pounds over the past few years.



How to contact us...

We welcome any articles, news, events, views and opinions that you would like to share with the wider community and see included in our newsletter. Please send them in to the Information Officer.



Centre
For
Equality &
Diversity

16a Stone Street
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 1NS

Tel: 01384 456166
Fax: 01384 861010

www.cfed.org.uk
General Enquiries: admin@cfed.org.uk

Registered Charity No.1114821
Registered Company No.5745005

