

Voice of BME – Trafford



Newsletter Issue 4
September 2007



The **Voice of BME – Trafford** is based at the Old Trafford Community Centre on Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford.

It was set up in March 2006 to address the issues affecting Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities living or working in the Borough of Trafford. One of our key aims is to put forward representatives of the BME communities to champion their issues at the decision-making bodies in Trafford.

The aim of **Voice of BME – Trafford** is:

To give a voice to the BME communities and improve their participation and representation at all decision-making levels in Trafford, in order to address the inequalities experienced by BME people and improve their life opportunities in every sphere i.e. education, housing, health, business, community, politics, leisure.

Objective of **Voice of BME – Trafford**:

1. To build relationships, trust and co-operation in the BME communities in Trafford.
2. To set up the BME Community Forum.
3. To encourage participation from BME communities in Trafford in the work of Voice of BME Trafford.
4. To elect representatives to represent BME communities to sit on various decision-making bodies in the borough, and to champion issues affecting BME communities.
5. Issues already highlighted are:
 - Business
 - Employment/Training
 - Education
 - Politics
 - Crime Prevention
 - Environment
 - Health and Housing
 - Arts/Culture/Leisure

Black History Month Trafford 2007 **The Impact of Slavery**

Black History Month is dedicated to highlighting and celebrating the contributions and achievements of Black People in the shaping of world history. It is celebrated annually, specifically during the month of October, although events and contributions continue throughout the year. Black History Month is a National initiative and this year it focuses on the Impact of Slavery following the theme of the 200 years of the abolition of slavery.

In Trafford, the events are being organised by a multi agency group of people that include the voluntary and community sector, Council staff, children and young people, representatives of arts and culture and communities. This ensures an inclusive approach and a true partnership. The events will be launched on 1st October 2007 at the Imperial War Museum North and continued throughout October and beyond. Themes include tracing ancestors, dance and drama, arts, physical exhibition of black heroes, both local and national, slavery in the modern world, activities in schools, poetry and many others.

Black History Month is not just about Black People especially this year when we are all invited to reflect on the theme of slavery, what it meant 200 years ago to people trying to ensure it's abolition, both white and black, and what it means now, in a world where people are enslaved in many ways, not always obvious to us. Join with us to make this year events a success.

Mandy Hughes

OPEN DAY Family Event

The Voice of BME – Trafford will be holding an **Open Day** at the Old Trafford Community Centre, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford.

The whole event will be free. It will include entertainment and refreshments for the participants.

This is a Family event; if you live or work within the Trafford area and would like a stall or would even like to provide some of the arts and entertainment at the Open Day then contact:

Tony Wright on **07950 934 484**

The **Voice of BME – Trafford** hold regular meetings of the Steering Group that are open to all community organisations and individuals.

These meetings are held at the Old Trafford Community Centre on Shrewsbury Street.

Details of the times and next few dates are scheduled below.

www.freewebs.com/voiceofbmetrafford

Steering Group (Time: 6:00 – 8:00)

Tuesday 25th September 2007

Tuesday 23rd October 2007

Tuesday 20th November 2007

Tuesday 18th December 2007

CEMVO and Capacity Building

At our meeting in July, we invited **Rushi Munshi** and **Theonste Ingusi** who did a formal presentation on capacity building for BME Community Groups and the BME Northwest consortia that CEMVO has been working on with BME Groups around the region.

Theonste Ingusi has been delivering some benchmark training as part of the interface programme for Community groups in the north west who signed up for the project. They explained that because the other groups have already started their project up, they are now in front and have even started putting in funding bids already.

We will keep you informed of further developments.