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| **Cardiff Third Sector Partnership**  **BME Forum**  **Meeting Notes** | |
| **Date** | 29/11/2016 |
| **Time** | 13:30 – 15:30 |
| **Location** | Tiger 3 Room, @Loudon, Plas Iona, CF10 5HW |
| **Present:** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Abdi Arwo | Somaliland MH Project | | Franck Banza | CAE | | Rajma Begum | WCVA/BME Sport Cymru | | Innocent Chimba | AS Cymru | | Michael Flynn | Diverse Cymru | | Anthony Hendrickson | SRCDC/BRG | | Allan Herbert | SRCDC/BRG | | Paul Hossack | Equality and Human Rights Commission | | Dr Grace Kerry | Race Council Cymru | | Syed Latif | Institute of Education and Research | | Bablin Malik | Sight Cymru | | Anne Mears-Rees | Alzheimer's Society | | Christian Ngossema | CAE | | Anna Nicholl | WCVA | | Lauretta Osa-Peters | Prince's Trust Wales | | Janet Thickpenny | Big Lottery Fund | | Bryn Thomas | Prince's Trust Wales | | Kalpana Natarajan | Wales Tamil Sangam | | Mohamed Yusef | Horn Development | | Mary Duckett | Cardiff Third Sector Council | | Sheila Hendrickson-Brown | Cardiff Third Sector Council | |
| **Apologies**: | Aliya Mohammed - Race Equality First, Uzo Iwobi – Race Council Cymru, Keithley Wilkinson – Cardiff & Vale UHB |

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| **Item** | **Action** |
| **1. Welcome and Apologies**  Sheila welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were given as noted. All introduced themselves. |  |
| **2. Guest - Glynn Jones, Director, Wales Office**   * Started by thanking the meeting for the opportunity to attend * Explained that he works in the Wales Office under the Minister for Wales - Adam Cairns * Department over time has lost contact with important groups; sees it as a priority to re-connect in order to take forward the departments’ responsibility for representing Wales and fighting Wales’ corner * Devolution has resulted in some policy areas being devolved to Wales, whilst others – Home Office, Criminal Justice – are not devolved – important in the context of the outcome of the EU referendum * His Departments’ role includes ensuring the Prime Minister has all the information needed as she goes in to the negotiations with the EU member states so that Wales’ interests are represented * Wales attracts 13% of EU funding to the UK whilst having 5% of the population share – it will be important not to rely on the Barnett formula if it is to be ensured that Wales gets what it needs financially * Exiting the EU is an enormous task that has no template – no country has left previously; it will have implications for every sector * Challenge panels have been formed – for example, to deal with the issues within the Steel industry in Wales; a similar model may be adopted to test the impact and approaches of post-referendum decisions * Some groups are dependent on EU funding due to the preceding extended structural funding that has been received therefore the decision to leave the EU has the potential to have significant impacts; the Treasury is committed to guaranteeing and will underwrite current funding commitments and clarified in the last budget statement that the Government will honour the devolution deal whilst ensuring best value * The UK will give effect to existing EU legislation in domestic law – ‘there will be no walking over a cliff edge’ * All Departments – Trade, Justice, Security, Home Office – are expected to continue with existing agreements with EU partners, and these are currently being worked through * The Government is planning to ensure migration is not lost, but instead they want to take a considered view on border control * It will be important for politicians to go in to the negotiations with their eyes open in terms of the country’s needs over the two years of transfer and subsequently in the post EU era * Every citizen will be affected, and therefore it is important the WO is accountable in ensuring the best deal for Wales – they want to hear everyone’s views and those of the other 27 states before making further plans or any guarantees * GJ was asked   + What can we do to help? Response – we need to feed in on the priorities, identify the limitations and what we would like the WO to champion, and to be realistic in terms of expectations – things will take time   + Where will we be in 2 years; might we be in the same position? Response – Once Article 50 is triggered there will be a two year time frame to complete the UK’s exit from the EU; the focus will be on avoiding system failure – there is no room to fail   + Will the Government champion immigration and extend the narrative beyond trade terms to reflect the human and social elements - this will be important in terms of recognising the issues that determined people’s vote in the referendum and bringing this perspective in to the mainstream instead of it being side-lined as the BME view: Response – it is important that we work together to shape the narrative   + How will the opportunities and choices for shaping policy and the narrative be shared? Response: A White Paper will be published seeking people’s views   + How will poverty be recognised – there is a need to confront the reality of many people’s lives, to tackle workless-ness and address the poverty gap; will the Government be prepared to consider alternative models of investment, specifically to generate wealth at a community level? Response: this is acknowledged; a strategy will be available at the end of 2016/early 2017 which will refer specifically to this in the context of place   + What will be the approach to assessing the equality impacts of any plans? Response: all papers and policies should be assessed and plans will take forward the challenges arising from the EIA’s   + Has the Government learned from other European partners about attracting inward investment in ways that bring positive investment to communities and the way in which the City Deal is delivered; the attitude of the British Government has led to poverty levels of wages, poor employment contract arrangements and low-level jobs for Wales? Response - recognise the importance of positive inward investment principles; poor experiences of the job market by local people were no doubt reflected in the way that they voted * GJ concluded by inviting the Group to hold him to account, and agreed to meet with the Group in 6 months to support this. * SHB thanked GJ and, checking in with the Group, agreed to invite GJ back to a future Forum meeting in 2017. | **GJ will be invited to a future forum meeting** |
| **3. Guest: Anna Nicoll, WCVA – How can WCVA best work with BME groups**  Ann explained that WCVA has just launched its strategic framework and has been working with Wales’ County Voluntary Councils to consider the challenges in providing effective and relevant support to the third sector.  She explained:   * A desktop research/review regarding key issues for Wales’ Third Sector and a Futures report are available on WCVA website. * WCVA has recently reviewed its strategic framework - setting out its vision, mission and goals for the next 5 years * She is interested in liking with the BME Forum to make sure WCVA’s engagement is inclusive   She asked how WCVA can support the 3rd Sector more effectively. Responses included   * Raising common concerns – such as inequitable outcomes for funding, increasing engagement, the items previously raised regarding the implications and impacts of Brexit, supporting citizen engagement, understanding the needs and interests of smaller, more marginalised groups.   Anna confirmed   * WCVA is committed to working with a diversity of groups - for example, Gofod3 is a new free event - the first will be held in Cardiff on the 7th of March * WCVA facilitates the Third Sector Scheme which includes supporting representatives to the Third Sector Partnership Council, which includes representatives from REF, DC, and Race Council Cymru * WCVA also held a survey regarding Brexit and its impact on the economy, rise of hate crime, issues of social justice and environmental protection.   Rajma Begum – Project Coordinator, BME Sport Cymru  Rajma explained   * She is coordinating a project, which is funded for 2 years by Sport Cymru and being delivered with 4 partners. WCVA host the project. * The project aims to tackle inequalities and racial discrimination in sport * Partner organisations support and steer the project * She is working with the sport sector to increase inclusivity   Sheila asked for details of plans and strategies for engaging the forum in helping to shape the work of the project. Anna explained, WCVA would like to work with groups represented here and take forward ideas and suggestions from the forum to enable WCVA to assess where improvements can be made.  Alan Herbert suggested issue arise for Ethnic Minorities when they ‘get herded into cities’ and the kind of segregation that followed led to Brexit. WCVA can support regional and national understanding to bring people together.  Oher comments included   * The need for help with funding. Sheila confirmed that whilst WCVA works at a national level, the 19 County Voluntary Councils in Wales work at a local level helping groups to find funding opportunities and supporting small groups to apply. She acknowledged the need for C3SC to analyse the disproportionate outcomes for differing communities as noted above. * The need for support for police/fire etc. – for recruitment for example, but applications to support community activities are often unsuccessful. * Opportunities to lobby for specific funding stream/s for BME causes, and to share good practise through feedback * local groups provide services at grassroots but LA funding is getting pulled * Changes in funding arrangements is increasing competition within the sector; one comment noted there was a risk to smaller organisations from larger third sector organisations that have the capacity and staff resources to benefit from funding opportunities within the context of the changes – increased tendering etc * Organise for the funders to come and see the help organisations provide * The importance of recognising that some groups need to develop capacity through support to be in a position to apply for funding * We need to take a step back and be more mindful of reduced resources and look for partnership approaches * A database of groups/organisations would be helpful; Sheila advised that C3SC has a directory of members on our website * The importance of agreeing priorities for activity and support required from C3SC; one comment – ‘they cannot do everything’ * Visible systems are required for how to raise issues and get them heard, and how to include the views of service users   Sheila advised C3SC will itemise the points raised for discussion and progression at future meetings, either directly or through signposting – for example, to other C3SC networks. She asked for confirmation of some of the key points noted, agreeing that C3SC will draw together the steps and actions on these topics   * Governance * Consortia * Raising the profile of what C3SC and other partners do * Funding support, including capacity building * Views and connections for opportunities for engagement   Anna proposed the importance of staying in touch with the Group  Michael confirmed that the important thing is getting our voice heard.  Mary proposed using the BME forum /other groups for themed views to be represented  Mohammed Yusef – discussed his project which he hopes will be funded for three years to 2020 and will work to engage BAME people in accredited volunteering and work placements. He would like to link with partners – including the local authority - to provide placements and address the current low level of BAME people in volunteering. Mohammed agreed to provide details about the project. Mary and Anna agreed they can help with providing links – to the Cardiff Volunteer Centre for example | **C3SC will analyse and support BME forum to lobby – including funders**  **C3SC funding ‘surgery’ will be held to understand and evidence the needs of the group including developing sustainability for BME groups – for discussion at next meeting**  **C3SC will itemise the points from the discussion and progress through agenda at future meetings**  **MY to provide details of his project** |
| 4. **BME Health Fair – Bablin Malik**  Bablin advised   * the Health Fair (HF) has been run at City Hall for the last 7 years * The decision was taken not to run the HF this year, but instead to take the time for reflection and review to improve and refresh the event and increase partners. * This included the intention to develop an advisory group to steer the HF – revisiting the concept and inviting more input from the community and a wider range of partners * The HF provides an opportunity for health messages and related communications to reach the BME community; this is not happening currently * It is also recognised that the HF needs to cater for a broader range of the BAME population * The HF currently relies on volunteers and their contribution can be widened to include increasing BME participation; it is important the HF caters for different needs, recognising that people’s needs are different * The plan includes developing a toolkit based on the learning from previous years which will inform the planning for the 2018 event.   Michael advised DC has developed toolkits and there may be money available to support some activity rather than nothing happening in 2017.  A further comment was there has been some more localised activity. The local HFs allows GP links and local follow-up which helps map health journey for health professionals. This model may provide an alternative approach rather than holding one large event whilst the Group is analysing the best way forward.  Sheila concluded by inviting participants to link up to consider the proposals, and agreed to share any information with the Group as it becomes available. | **Forum members to link up; C3SC will share BME HF details as they become available** |
| **5. Consultation and Influence- Sheila Hendrickson-Brown**  Sheila summarised, stating that it was clear from the discussion that the Group agreed the importance of using the forum to give voice to concerns and interests, noting that C3SC will take this away as agreed and outline proposals for how this can be addressed | **See above** |
| **6. Purpose and aims**  In the absence of time, Sheila agreed to circulate the draft terms of reference with the notes from the meeting and invited feedback with a view to them being finalised for agreement at the next meeting | **Terms of reference to be circulated for comment** |
| **7. Any Other Business**  Syed Latif, Institute for Education and Research  – Syed explained that following his 12 years of experience teaching in secondary school and meeting many families in which he recognised that children who do well at school are supported by parents who make sure their children do their homework, he has proposed the idea to help children struggling at school and support parents’ interactions with their children. WA recommend he makes links to develop the project through training and seminars. He agreed to provide details for the Group.  Kalpana Natarajan, Wales Tamil Sangam  - Kalpana explained the Wales Tamil Sangam delivers a range of services to the Tamil community, many of who are first generation economic migrants. In the role of providing interpretation services, it has been identified that there is an issue of abuse and violence against men, many of who are dependent on their wives. In what is a patriarchal society issues of pride prevent the men from speaking out, The project provides a helpline and can take confidential referrals as there is a need to offer this support. Kalpana agreed to provide details for the Group.  It was noted the tender for BME Mental Health services is currently on Sell2Wales.  SHB confirmed the need to review the agenda and the timing for the meetings as it had overrun. Michael expressed his support for inviting representatives to speak about an issue and then opening up the item for discussion. | **Share info on projects with papers to the Group** |
| **8. Date of next meeting –** Quarterly meetings to be arranged | **Confirm dates** |

Action list:

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| Who | Action & timeframe | Progress |
| C3SC | GJ will be invited to a future meeting of the forum – by next meeting | To attend June date |
| C3SC | Analyse and support BME forum to lobby – including funders – for discussion at next meeting | Update 15th March |
| C3SC | C3SC funding ‘surgery’ will be held to understand and evidence the needs of the group including developing sustainability for  BME groups – for discussion at next meeting. | Update 15th March |
| C3SC | C3SC will itemise the points from the discussion and progress through agenda at future meetings | Update 15th March |
| MY | MY to provide details of his project – for circulation with the meeting papers | Update 15th March |
| BM, MF, TP  C3SC | Forum members to link up;  C3SC will share BME HF details as they become available | Update 15th March |
| C3SC  ALL | Terms of Reference to be shared for comments and finalisation at the next meeting | With notice to convene 15th March meeting |
| SL, KN | Share information on projects – to be circulated with the meeting papers to the BME Forum | Update 15th March |
| C3SC | Confirm dates of quarterly meetings | Update 15th March |