

# BEMWG

## Black and Ethnic Minority Working Group

Working with minority communities within the Health and Social Care Sector in Hackney

### BEMWG SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

#### Dear Reader

BEMWG is proud to present you with our Summer 2011 electronic newsletter. This issue covers a briefing on the 2011 Census, The Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes visit to BEMWG, introducing Yad Voezer and SANE, future activities, events and trainings as well as funding opportunities.

We look forward for your active engagement with us for better relations. We encourage you as a reader to send us your input, views or any other information you need to publicise. Together we will make a difference...

## 2011 CENSUS

The census in the United Kingdom is held every ten years. There have only been two occasions where the census has not been decennial: There was no census in 1941 due to the war; and a mini-census using a ten percent sample of the population was conducted on 24 April 1966. There are actually three separate censuses in the United Kingdom - in England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, although they are often coordinated.

The 2011 Census for England and Wales will include around 25 million households and is going to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Questionnaires are to be posted out to all households using a national address register compiled by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) with the help of local authorities through comparisons of the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) and the Royal Mail and Ordnance Survey national address products.

People will be able to complete and submit their questionnaire online, or fill it in on paper and post it back in a pre-addressed envelope. Guidance is being provided online and through the census helpline. Completed questionnaires will be electronically tracked and field staff will follow up with households that do not return a questionnaire.

There is a legal requirement to complete the 2011 Census questionnaire, under the terms of the Census Act 1920. Everyone who has lived or intends to live in the country for three months or more will be required to

complete a questionnaire. Special arrangements are being made to count people living in communal establishments such as boarding schools, prisons, military bases, hospitals, care home, student halls of residence and hotels - and for rough sleepers, royal apartments and embassies.

As for every other local authority, Hackney is also relying on census population statistics to identify local needs for public services. It is a key means for local government, health authorities and other organisations to target resources where they are needed and plan all necessary services for the borough such as housing, education, health and transport and etc.



*"It is essential that every household in Hackney takes the time to fill in the census. The more households that fill in the census forms, the more money will get for local services. This year's census will be one of the most important ever for people in Hackney."* Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe.

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Charity Registration No: 1106061 Company Limited by Guarantee No: 4625060

**BEMWG is an independent charity funded through NHS City and Hackney**



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### **RECENT BEMWG ACTIVITIES**

#### **Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes, visits BEMWG**



BEMWG has organised a reception during the Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes visit to organisation on Thursday, 17 February 2011. The reception was organised at the BEMWG office on Bradbury Street.

The reception was opened with a welcome speech by the Chair of BEMWG, Nazima Osman. The chair has thanked the Deputy Mayor of London for his visit and interest in the BEMWG and Hackney overall, and the BEMWG trustees, members and Rob Blackstone, Assistant Director for Learning Disabilities and Mental Health from Hackney Council.

#### **The reception became a community engagement with other bodies.**

BEMWG Director, Aliya El Agib, gave briefing on the BEMWG activities and said "We believe the issues affecting the BAMER communities in Hackney are not different than those issues affect BAMER communities in other boroughs". BEMWG director touched on the Cultural Competency Toolkit which was recently produced by BEMWG and organisation's aim to widen it through organising trainings with the frontline workers and service providers on how to embrace diversity.

The BEMWG trustees and members have also given information on their activities in the borough. The Deputy Mayor of London actively engaged and responded to the points raised by BEMWG trustees and members.

Overall the visit represented an encouraging way of direct engagement with policy makers.

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### Introducing BAMER Organisations

#### YAD VOEZER

In 1975, a group of parents in Hackney, North London, decided that they wanted to give their learning disabled children a better quality of life than was then available. They first opened a play group, which rapidly expanded into a full evening and weekend programme, and later in 1978 they set up a Helping Hand - Yad Voezer - as a Registered Charity.

In the intervening years, the Charity developed a range of new services and now caters for an ever increasing number of learning disabled children and adults. A dedicated and experienced staff manages three residential homes which are registered with the National Care Standards Commission, furthermore, three supporting housing projects are managed for people with learning difficulties who wish to live more independently within a Jewish environment. A wide range of respite and support services include welfare advice, social activities, vocational support, independent living skills, holiday schemes, family and domiciliary support, advocacy and counselling.

The organisation achieved Investors in People accreditation in 1996 which has been consistently maintained. It is now working towards achieving Government Accreditation and recognition as a model of excellence in the provision of high quality services for people with learning disabilities and their families.



#### Yad Voezer Services

**Housing Projects:** Yad Voezer manages two Supported Housing Projects for women and one for men, who - while not requiring the high level of care provided by the residential homes, still need considerable support during the day and night.

**Family Support:** Yad Voezer's Family Support department offers real help and support to families who are frequently under a great deal of stress. It also acts in an advocacy capacity for learning disabled clients and their families, attending hospitals and Social Services reviews to support clients and their families. Support for accessing Government funding and help with Statementing is also available.

**Outreach and Respite:** Yad Voezer provides clubs for boys and for girls, taking place several times a week, providing transport, refreshments, music, dancing, drama and art as well as a variety of other activities, in a relaxed and friendly environment for learning disabled young people who find it difficult to socialise. It also provides Domiciliary Care when required including home visits or residential respite care.

**For more information, please contact Yad Voezer**

**90 Elizabeth's Walk, London N16 5UQ**

**Tel: 020 8809 4303 E-mail: [yadvoezer@btconnect.com](mailto:yadvoezer@btconnect.com)**

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**One in four of us will be affected by mental illness at some point in our lives**

SANE is a mental health charity working to improve the quality of life for people affected by mental illness, including family, friends and carers. This is done through a range of activities, including research, campaigning and support services.

### SANE Services

SANE services include a [helpline](#), an [e-mail service](#) and an online [support forum](#) which provide emotional support and information for anyone affected by mental illness. This includes families, friends and carers.

One of SANE's recent additions to its services is the [Diversity Room](#) within its online Support Forum. This space acknowledges the diversity within our community and provides an opportunity for members to engage in mutual support around matters relating to how 'difference' impacts upon their mental health. Examples include experiences and difficulties in accessing mental health services due to a disability, gender, race, culture, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation or perceptions of the wider community.

### SANE Research Projects

SANE Research explores the social and psychological aspects of mental illnesses. One current programme focuses on the insights of people who have experienced suicidal feelings or have been bereaved by suicide. Another is studying the ways in which people diagnosed with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder follow their treatment recommendations.

## Get Involved

### Volunteer with SANE:

SANE recruits volunteers from diverse backgrounds and with different personal life experiences for a range of roles within its London office in E1. More information on SANE volunteering opportunities can be found [here](#).

**Fundraise for SANE:** SANE rely on voluntary income to fund its work. Your kindness and generosity brings comfort and hope, and changes people's lives for the better. If you would like to [fundraise](#) or make a [donation](#), please contact Laura Hurley on 020 7422 5544.

**Participate in research:** SANE is currently recruiting people diagnosed with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder and psychiatrists working with these conditions to take part in its [Understanding Service User Treatment Choices Research](#). For more information, email Susanne Gibson at [TreatmentChoice@sane.org.uk](mailto:TreatmentChoice@sane.org.uk)

For SANE [Suicide Prevention Research](#), it wants to talk to people who have lost a close friend or relative through suicide, and to people who have attempted suicide themselves, together with their close friends and relatives. For more information, email Outi Benson at [SuicidePreventionStudy@sane.org.uk](mailto:SuicidePreventionStudy@sane.org.uk).





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### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### MSE Charity

MSE Charity, funded by Martin Lewis and MoneySavingExpert.com, supports projects that help educate people about money, debt and consumer issues. It also funds individuals looking to take a course to improve their knowledge of consumer issues, debt, or personal money. Projects have to help people to improve their quality of life through knowledge and understanding of how to manage and

take control of their own financial situation. Grants of up to £5,000 are available.

**Closing date:** You can apply at any time. For more information, please visit <http://www.msecharity.com/> or write to The Operations Manager, The MSE Charity PO Box 240, Gatley, Cheadle SK8 4XT

#### Nationwide Foundation

Nationwide Foundation gives grants to charities that aim to tackle financial exclusion in two groups of people:

- Survivors of domestic abuse
- Older people.

The aim is to build their financial capability and give support, in order to achieve an improved quality of life.

Priority is given to work supporting groups of people who are from deprived areas. Currently its Small Grants Programme is open, offering grants of up to £5,000 to registered charities with incomes under £500,000.

**For more information please visit:** <http://www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk/default.asp> or call 01793 655113

#### Tudor Trust

Tudor Trust supports work that addresses the social, emotional and financial needs of people at the margins of society. The Trust makes grants very widely, preferring smaller groups, and does not focus its funding on specific themes or programmes. However, financial security is one of its established areas of funding

and it has funded credit unions, financial capability work with young people, money advice and financial services for offenders and their families and debt advice workers.

**For more information please visit:** <http://www.tudortrust.org.uk/> or call 020 7727 8522

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## **Future Activities, Events & Training**

### **The BIG Response: Practical Actions for Common Goals A free workshop-based conference**

The Evelyn Oldfield Unit is organising a practical full day free workshop styled conference, bringing together BAMER, mainstream groups and funders to discuss "Big Society" impact upon voluntary sector groups, but especially to explore creative ways to get the most out of limited resources, with a practical and an active attitude.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am–4.00pm**

**Venue: The Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA**

Community leaders, staff, volunteers and trustees of BAMER groups and mainstream community groups and charities, funders, and policy makers are all welcome to join this event.

If your group would like to join or express interest in setting up a stall at this event please email [Zibiah@evelynoldfield.co.uk](mailto:Zibiah@evelynoldfield.co.uk)

### **Take Part in the Hackney's Annual Scrutiny Survey**

The Annual Resident's Survey to gather suggestions for reviews for Hackney's Scrutiny Commissions to undertake next year. Scrutiny Commissions are made up of Councillors from all political parties and co-optees from the community who investigate issues of local concern. Reviews are evidence-based and non-political.

Each year Hackney Council run a survey of people who live, work or study in the borough, to gauge the most important

topics that should be subject to scrutiny review next year.

Examples of scrutiny reviews carried out this year include Services for Disabled Children, Responses to Gun and Knife Crime, Tobacco Control, and Support for the Local High Street. Community organisations in Hackney may have ideas of other topics that would warrant this sort of investigation. The short survey [can be found here](#).

The survey deadline is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April**.

### **Free Legal Advice Sessions**

on Community Care and Housing Issues by Blavo and Co Solicitors

Are you a carer or service user and unhappy with the level of service being provided? Are you struggling in your home due to a disability and facing delays with grants for adaptations? Is your landlord not dealing with your despair issue? Then why not contact Carers Centre on 020 7923 8750 to arrange an appointment with the advice team.

**Venue:** City & Hackney Carers Centre. Every 2 weeks (Firdays) from 1:30pm-5pm.

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### **Review of mental health services**

The Commissioning for Personalisation Review of mental health 'recovery & social inclusion provision' is planned to be based on users views and wants but to date the response rate from mental health service users has been lower than that of other groups.

**This review will decide what services are commissioned from 2012 onwards so it is really important that service users make their views and needs known.**

There are three ways you can help ensure this happens:

- Encourage your users to fill in the online questionnaire from this link <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/trasc-info-and-advice.htm>
- Invite officers from the council to a user group meeting (before the end of March)
- Run a focus Group yourselves (there are set questions to feed into the review)

Please contact Paul Knipe regarding options 2 & 3 on 020 8356 3966 or e-mail:

[paul.knipe@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:paul.knipe@hackney.gov.uk)

**The consultation closes March 31<sup>st</sup>**

### **Hackney Migrant Centre**

Free English classes every Wednesday and Friday  
2.30-4.30pm

Open to all refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Intermediate level – not appropriate for complete beginners

Address: Hackney Migrant Centre,  
St. Mary's New Church Rooms,  
Spensley Walk,  
London, N16 9ES

**Please call Helen Hibberd to find out more on: 07504332706**

### **Self- Directed Care Seminars**

Free Engaging BME Communities in Health & Social Care Seminar  
Tuesday, 22 March 10am – 1pm  
Venue: **Derek Stobbs Training Room. Key House, 106 High Street, Yiewsley, Middlesex UB7 7BQ**

For more information please contact:  
Farah Chaudhry on 020 8981 2146/07961  
712 392 and Jessie Jandu on 020 8571 7928

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