CECF Introduction

The Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum has been going through a period of re-organisation recently. This has led to the departure of esteemed colleagues who have served the forum and communities well over the past two years. They are Asmita Sapra and Mitesh Patel who I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank for their efforts. I would however also like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member of staff Hena Haque who brings with her a wealth of knowledge and expertise in BME health issues. During the rest of this year she will be leading forum initiatives in this area, starting with EMCAW (Ethnic Minority Cancer Awareness Week). See inside newsletter for further information.

Development

This year our volunteers have been very busy continuing to develop an IT project providing free courses in partnership with Cambridge Online. These online basics courses have been very popular with the community and we are looking to see how we may continue and indeed develop them further. With a view to enhancing our capabilities and reach through some outreach work. We were actively involved in marketing the Census 2011 culminating in a completion event at the forum with the National Census team on the 31st of March.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on, Monday 28th March. Many of our longer serving board members stepping down as their terms of office ended. However a new team has taken over with enough of the more experienced hands still around to provide the necessary guidance. The AGM was attended by the Mayor Councillor Sheila Stuart and there was an excellent presentation by Adelina Chalmers, from MENTER on the topic of the importance of ‘BME participation in Public Life’.

March also saw the end of our CRMS (Cambridge Refugee & Migrant Support) project which has assisted hundreds of clients over the past two years, not before however, we had organised two outreach activities for asylum seekers and refugees and their families, in partnership with the Cambridge University Aspire group, to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens and the Fitzwilliam Museum. We also launched a small Christmas appeal for our refugee hardship fund which raised £1250, mainly in donations from the Cambridge University Colleges. This is administered for us through the Red Cross Refugee Service, who we still work with in close partnership on site, at the forum.

Reported by Eddie Stadnik
Chief Officer
We are also working closely with the Cambridge Immigration Legal Centre to ensure that good quality and timely immigration advice is available to this very vulnerable client group.

Cambridge Racial Incident Support Project (CRISP)

Since the last newsletter CRISP received the news that our funding for this financial year (2011 – 2012) was continuing. Analysis of our work from January 2010 until the end of March 2011 showed that we had 193 enquiries at the office and opened 80 case files, with positive results for the majority of our clients. A report is available if requested. We are continuing to hold monthly surgeries in Cambourne, Ely, and Huntingdon, we have managed to arrange a monthly surgery in St. Neots and now hold surgeries twice a month in Wisbech. We continue to hold our late evening surgeries on a Tuesday and Thursday from 5pm to 8pm and on a Saturday between 10am and 2pm. Posters are available from the CRISP office and the dates of the surgeries are on the CECF website.

CRISP delivered training on Race Awareness, the statutory obligations in relation to the Equality Act and Equality Impact Assessments. The staff team have been on training covering a number of areas and the analysis of our activities have identified other areas that we will be pursuing during the next few months. CRISP needs volunteers and would welcome applications from members of the community. Historically CRISP only dealt with race discrimination, harassment and victimisation. We now deal with all equalities and human rights and we have been told that our current name stops people from accessing the services. We are in the process of trying to find a new name that reflects our area of work and would welcome any suggestions from the members of the community.

Tony Lindsay, CRISP Project Manager has been invited to be a representative of the party of Non Governmental Organisations to attend the UN at Geneva in August. The UK Government has to submit a report on racism to the UN Committee on the Eradication of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and they encourage active participation from NGO’s as they like to see a balance picture. Tony has been asked to participate in the writing of the NGO Report, ‘The Shadow Report’ in relation to the UK Governments Report, that the CERD Committee will take into consideration and he will be participating in the briefing sessions and presentation to the CERD Committee members.

Through the activities in relation to the EU and the UN, CRISP hopes to build relationships both nationally and internationally with other NGO’s working in the field of racial discrimination and human rights. This is a strategic change of direction for CRISP as the rise of racism both at home and in Europe shows the need for ‘wider’ partnership working. We have been to Brussels to meet with a number of people in regard to European Funding and I was invited to the United Nations in Geneva to participate in a thematic discussion on Racism. Tony has had contact from organisations in Canada and Switzerland in relation to the possibility of working together. He will report on progress in future newsletters.

Reported By Tony Lindsay
Community Focus

We would like to encourage BME member groups and individuals to contribute to this section of the Newsletter, if you have such items of interests to share, then please contact Eddie Stadnik via Email: cecfenquiries@cecf.co.uk. In this edition we are featuring the Cambridge Chinese Community Centre and Indian Community and Culture Association, CB4 community consultation & Ethnic Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

Reported by Eddie Stadnik

Chinese New Year Festival

On the 30th of January 2011 the Chinese Community Centre celebrated their New Year. The 'Year of the Rabbit' with a festival at the Cambridge Regional College. There was a colourful variety show which was enjoyed by all. Participants both young and old making for a very entertaining and enjoyable event.

The Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum helped market the event and a team of our volunteers assisted on the day.

Indian Community and Cultural Association AGM

On the 29th of May the Indian Community & Cultural Association held it's Annual General Meeting at the Bharat Bhavan on Mill Road. The Outgoing Chair spoke about the achievements of the past year and after a lively discussion about some of the issues of the organisation a new chair and committee was elected by the membership. The CECF in the form of the Chief officer helped facilitate the election and wished the ICCA well. Hoping that the good relationship that the forum and ICCA has built up over the past two years will be continued.
CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Focus Continued

North Area Committee Community Consultation Event 18th of June 2011
The Cambridge City Council is trying new approaches in regards to community consultation in Northern Cambridge. This is to make it easier for local people to have their say about local decisions and about issues that affect their lives. To this end they are asking residents to complete a short survey. This can be completed online at www.cambridge.gov.uk/northareacommittee
There will also be a community event on the 18th of June, where people can drop into the Meadows Community Centre, between 10.00 a.m and 2 p.m, to see how other people have responded and to help shape local priorities. The consultation closes on 30th June 2011.
The North Area Committee has had major discussions on library cuts and on policing priorities. Their next community forum is on Thursday 14th July, at Manor School, starting at 7.30p.m.

Ethnic Minority Cancer Awareness Week 11th-17th July 2011
This is a national event which was launched by Cancer Equality at their Delivering Equality in Cancer Care - A challenge for all conference in 2007. As a result of this conference Cancer Equality organised a group of leading cancer charities, coming together to launch EMCAW in 2008. Since then it has been taking place on an annual basis, delivering a week of activities and events to raise cancer awareness and improve access amongst minority ethnic communities to the relevant services. The theme for this year is increasing awareness and early diagnosis of cancer among minority ethnic communities and groups.
It has been reported that 1 in 3 people will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives. Research shows that African-Caribbean men are three times more likely to develop prostate cancer compared to white men. Mouth cancer is more common among South Asian communities. Liver cancer is higher among Bangladeshi and Chinese communities. However awareness and take up of some cancer services is reported as lower among minority ethnic communities.
Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum has been awarded a small EMCAW grant which it will use for an information stall at the Asian Mela on 10th July 2011. It is hoped that through this we will contribute to raising awareness and access to the relevant cancer services.

Sourced from The EMCAW website with kind permission from them to reproduce their logo.
Training News

Need a little help getting started with computers and the internet?

Online basics is a great way for you to get started online, helping you to gain the skills and confidence you need to start using computers and the internet. Online basics will help you learn how to:

- Use a mouse and keyboard
- Search online
- Stay safe online
- Send emails.

Whether you’re looking to develop internet skills for a new job or simply save time and money by using the internet to pay your bills – Online basics can help you get the skills you need to get online.

To find out just how easy it is to get started with Online basics, visit us at:

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum
62-64 Victoria Road, Cambridge, CB4 3DU
FREE courses in partnership with Cambridge Online on Wednesdays from 12 to 3pm.
Just drop in or call 01223 315877 for details.

Or to find your nearest centre call 0800 77 1234 or visit www.onlinebasics.co.uk

EssayAssay can provide you or your organisation low cost, high quality copyediting, correspondence and academic writing assistance

Graham Roberts is the CEO for EssayAssay, which is specifically established to help those from a BME background, to become more effective communicators in the professional world.

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- CV, Cover Letter or Job Application
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Please feel free to browse the EssayAssay Website: www.essayassay.com or contact Graham Roberts directly on Email: graham.roberts@essayassay.com for a no obligation enquiry/quotation.
Refugee Week is a unique opportunity to discover and celebrate the contributions refugees bring to the UK. During Refugee Week events will be taking place in Cambridge which explore the experience of asylum and refugee groups living in our community.

INFO IN THE MARKET SQUARE  Saturday 18th June 10 am – 4 pm  
The British Red Cross with the Mayor of Cambridge and the local MP  
Please take the time to visit our stall in the market square for information about our services and opportunities to volunteer to support refugees and asylum seekers living in our community.  
For more information contact: Youssef Nisy on 07738 944609

Film - Moving To Mars  Thursday 23rd June  6 pm  
The film 'Moving to Mars' follows two refugee families from Burma over the course of a year, a period that will change their lives completely.  
Film screening, with introductory presentation about the experience of moving to a new country and embracing a different culture. Talk by Anglia Ruskin University lecturer, Melanie Bell.  
Venue:  Anglia Ruskin University, East Road.  Room: Coslett 117.  
The event is free but please book your place by calling either Ari Henry, Cambridge City Council on 01223 457876 or Miriam Berg, Community Outreach, Anglia Ruskin University on 01223 363271

Refugee Celebration Event  Friday 24th June  5.30 pm – 8.30 pm  
Venue:  Centre at St. Pauls, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1JP  
On Friday evening the pace hot up with a display of Afghan and Iranian dancing, a chance to learn a few steps of Salsa and sample flavours of the world – some tasty snacks to try!  
Ziba Tabrizi - is one of very few performers of authentic Persian, Tajik, Azeri and Afghan dance in the UK. These relatively rare art forms are graceful, diverse and exciting.

Fitzwilliam Museum Tour - ‘Migration throughout the Ancient World’  
Saturday 25th June  12 pm - 2 pm  
Migration past and present: In this themed tour we look on the differences between ancient and modern immigrant communities. We will also discuss differences in concepts like ‘ethnicity’ and ‘state’ in ancient times.  
Everyone welcome to share their own story of migration.  
Venue:  Department of Antiquities, The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RB.  Please meet at the courtyard entrance.
Events Continued

Asian Mela, Sunday 10th July, Parkers Piece, Cambridge

This year marks the 2nd Asian Mela in Cambridge. It again promises to be an exciting event and is fast becoming a permanent fixture in the Cambridge Summer Calendar. There is also an opportunity for community members to have a stall at the Mela or do catering. Application forms to apply for those opportunities can be downloaded in pdf format from here for stalls or here for catering. You could either have a food stall or an arts & craft stall with an South Asian influence to continue with the theme of the Mela.

This year the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum will have a stall at the Mela to raise awareness on health issues. This coincides with Ethnic Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This is a national event which raises awareness and highlights the inequalities in access to services. For more information about this you can contact Hena Haque on cecfenquiries@cecf.co.uk.

More information about the Mela and Summer activities organized by the Cambridge City Council these can be viewed by following this link:

http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/summerinthecity/the-big-weekend.html

Unity In The Community, Sat 16th July, Huntingdon
Services provided on CECF site

**Cambridge Racial Incident Support Project (CRISP)**

Helps individuals who have been victims of discrimination, or who have been a victim of racial harassment.

- Tues & Thurs (10am – 7pm)
- Wednesday (10am – 4pm)
- Saturday (10am – 2pm)

To book an appointment, please contact CRISP on Tel: (01223) 462615 or Email: crispenquiries@cecf.co.uk

**Drop-ins on CECF site**

General Drop-in Times & Free Computer use

- **Tue** 10 am to 4 pm
- **Wed - Fri** 10 am to 1 pm

**British Red Cross Refugee Services**

For Asylum Seekers and Refugees

For more information, go to Website: Every Friday (10am - 4pm)

To book an appointment, please contact us on Tel: (01223) 315877

**Development Partnerships with**

- The Akashi Project
- British Red Cross
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridge Immigration Legal Centre
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire NHS
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Huntingdonshire Community Association
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- MENTER

**Italian Benefit Advice**

Every 1st Friday of every Month from 10am - 12 (noon)

To book an appointment, please contact Carlo Ciccarello on Tel: (01234) 357889

**CECF Staff**

- Chief Officer: Eddie Stadnik
- Project Support Officer: Hena Wali Haque
- CRISP Project Manager: Tony Lindsay
- CRISP Caseworker: Emmanuel Obikwu
- CRISP Administrator: Federica Degli-Esposti

**CECF Management Committee**

- Chair: Valerie Berkson
- Secretary: Mrs Iqbal Warsi
- Treasurer: Mirza Baig
- Members:
  - Abdul Rashid Khan
  - Benedict Darkwa
  - Eva Simmons
  - George Akelinza
  - Mahendra Soopaul
  - Mustafa Ongan
  - Thakobhai Patel
  - Kamila Lembrzych
  - Anna Mucha
  - Dr Kashif Chauhan
  - Dr Nadeem Abdullah
  - A Latif Rajput
  - Farah Moughal
  - Aali Sayed
  - Mr Ali Ahmed Miah

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