

Bristol Somali Forum Meeting

Date: 25 March 2010

Time: 10.00 am – 12.15 pm

Venue: Muller Hall

Type of meeting: BSF monthly meeting

Hosted by: LinkSan

Chaired by: Latif Ismail/Ahmed Duale

Note taker: Abdi Mohamed

Attendees:	Full Name	Organisation /Representing
1.	Said Burale	SDEA ¹
2.	Latif Ismail	Transparency Research
3.	Ahmed Duale	LinkSan
4.	Amina Hirsi	SDG ²
5.	Jama Ali	SMHDP ³
6.	Hibo Elmi	SMHDP
7.	Abiir Shirdoon	SMHDP
8.	Dheeho Yusuf	SMHDP
9.	Stells Kasonya	SMHDP
10.	Ahmed Awale	SDEA
11.	Abdi Mohamed	BSMG ⁴ /ELAYS ⁵
12.	Farhan Ahmed	BCC Community Cohesion Team
13.	Egeran Gibril	SAP ⁶
14.	AbdiAziz Hassan	British Red Cross (BRC)
15.	Adam Dubad	IDP ⁷
16.	Mahmoud Matan	UWE/Amana
17.	Mahmoud Ibrahim	Guest
18.	Said Doule	IDP
19.	Steve Vaughan	Avon and Somerset Police
20.	Abib Mohamed	Amana ⁸
21.	Mohamed Mumin	Amana
22.	Ali Awad	Guest
23.	Suad Abdullahi	BCC Integration Impact Project

Apologies: Omar Sabriye
Steve Wilmshurst

Minutes

Item: 1 – Issues arising from last minutes (4th March 2010)

- Abdi to ask Khalil to confirm the venue of the next BSF monthly meeting on 22nd April 2010.
- Latif to contact Mohamed Ismail at BCC and invite him to the next BSF meeting on 22nd April 2010. This is in relation to the reshaping and operations of the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Item: 2

Election of BSF management – To elect 3 officers for the posts of a Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

The group elected the following officers for the posts:

1. Dheeho Yusuf Deputy Chair
2. Said Burale Treasurer
3. Abdi Mohamed Secretary

The group discussed the possibility of creating roles for support officers that will work with the Management Committee (MC). This, however, must be in line with the BSF constitution.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Management committee could meet and discuss the above mentioned roles.	Latif	Before the next meeting

Item: 3

BSF Action Plan – Latif explained that the Action Plan (see the attached documents) was the outcome of the BSF away day in July, the wish list from the group. But we need to concentrate the work – as we have less time together – to improve the quality of life of Bristol's Somali community by lobbying, supporting and working with partner organisations so as to transform our issues and concerns into actions.

BSF, structurally, comprises management committee, representatives (member groups), and observers. The observers can be from our partners or are members of the community, but they are not able to take the floor and vote. More details please read the Action Plan.

Latif also noted the following points:

- The sub groups (or task groups) will be set up properly by next year;
- Putting our message across, both internally and externally, is very crucial and we need to improve our communications.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Prepare an Action Plan to enable BSF to effectively engage with the Somali community and/or their representatives in equal terms.	Ahmed Duale (to be discussed with the MC and the group)	22 nd April 2010 (1 st draft)

Members of the group talked over the need to improve our internal communication systems in order to share information or to contact other members.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Update the group email	Said Burale	ASAP

'There is a compulsion need to develop and implement a communication strategy that is inclusive, meets the diverse needs of the Somali community', the group acknowledged. 'The Somali-led media organisations are central to the strategy'.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Develop a communication strategy	Latif, Matan, Farhan, and Abdi	To be agreed

The group agreed to take the following actions as well.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Read/check the action plan and note anything that you wish to include and/or make comments	Members of the group	Before/by next meeting
The new MC could meet in a week's time	Latif	By the week ending 04/04/10

Item: 4

BSF Progress report – the outgoing management team to present a written report as agreed in the last meeting.

Duale: "We have done a lot; our main focus was to lay the foundation of the Forum and our work can be seen from the Action Plan document. We commissioned this work (BSF Structure). And Suad [the ex-chair] is here to tell you more."

Abdi: "It would have been better to present a written document, even a few paragraphs ... as they say 'words fly, writings remain'. But we appreciate what you have done."

Suad: "we promoted the Forum and built partnership working with NHS PCT, Bristol City Council (and its departments) such as Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) as well as other service providers/agencies that deal with education, mental health, crime, etc.; the needs of the Somalis must be recognised, therefore we:

- Liaised with the Council;
- Worked/linked with other relevant voluntary organisations;
- Set up an email group for BSF members;
- Encouraged PCT to provide training for Mental Health Advocacy to SDEA;
- Organised training for 10 Somali women from different organisations to enable them improve or gain understanding of the work of the local Neighbourhood Partnerships. The training was delivered by a manager from Bristol Partnership;
- Captured 3k (£3000) from BCC. The money was used to develop appropriate structure for BSF. And we commissioned Transparency Research to carry out the work.

Note: Just for the record:

- Transparency Research was commissioned to carry out BSF structure work well before Latif became as the chair of BSF;
- And the outgoing management team presented an oral report about BSF achievements – and obstacles – for the last 12 months (March 2009 to February 2010).

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Set up relevant monitoring and evaluation systems	Management Committee	To be agreed

BSF April message: [“What is not recorded is not remembered”](#)

Item: 5

Migration Impact fund – ‘The fund was allocated to cities which have experienced demographic changes, have key migrant communities’, Suad explained. ‘Somalis and Polish are the two largest migrant groups in Bristol at the moment. But also there are a significant numbers from Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, etc.’

She also mentioned that the fund is being used to deliver two projects: an educational support project for schools and another for delivering work that focuses English language and citizenship for migrants. And her role is to oversee both projects.

Three lead partners (Barton Hill Settlement, Easton Learning Centre and Refugee Action) have been commissioned to deliver the work and the Somali Resource Centre is among the winners of the bid.

More details of the Migration Impact Fund please see the documents circulated in the meeting or contact Suad Abdullahi.

Item: 6

Event: A look at Right-Wing Extremism – Steve Vaughan from Avon and Somerset Police, Special Branch Community Engagement, informed the group about the event which aims to increase awareness of the public and share an understanding of the extreme right, their development, aims, operation and impact. The event was scheduled to happen on Saturday 27th March at the Barton hill Settlement. It features two leading expertise, acknowledged authority on right wing extremism and activity.

Item: 7

British Red Cross (BRC) – AbdiAzis Mohamed discussed about the work of the BRC and the different services they provide to communities such as refugee services and First Aid training (please visit <http://www.redcross.org.uk>). AbdiAziz's role is to identify and asses the needs of the Somali community in Bristol; then develop appropriate services for the target group.

Egeran asked if they provide financial assistance for refugees who have been legally permitted to bring their family members (children, husband or wife, parents, and so and) into the UK. But as AbdiAziz is new to the post, he will find out about it.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Find out if BRC provide financial assistance for refugees to reunite with their family members	AbdiAziz Mohamed	22 nd April 2010

Item: 8

The impact on funding cuts on Adult Education – Suad said that Hibaq Jama couldn't come to the meeting as she's in the middle of her campaign against funding cuts on Adult Education. However, she needs the support of the Forum and Somali-led organisations; more importantly, she needs the Somali community to stand behind her. She is presenting her speech campaign on this matter on Tuesday 29th March at the Council House – from 5.30 pm.

Next meeting:

Date: 22nd April 2010

Time: 11.00 am to 1.00 pm

Venue: Malcolm X Community Centre

141 City Road

Bristol BS2 8YH

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- ¹ SDEA Somali Disability and Elderly Association
² SDG Somali Development Group
³ SMHDP Somali Mental Health & Drugs Project
⁴ BSMG Bristol Somali Media Group
⁵ Elays Elays Development Network
⁶ SAP Somali Advice Project
⁷ IDP Integration Development project
⁸ Amana Amana Education Trust