

# Bristol Somali Forum Meeting

Date: 04 March 2010

Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Muller Hall

**Type of meeting:** BSF monthly meeting

**Hosted by:** LinkSan

**Chaired by:** Ahmed Duale

**Note taker:** Abdi Mohamed

| Attendees: | Full Name        | Organisation                                        |
|------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|            | Khalil Abdi      | Somali Youth Education & Welfare Foundation (SYEWF) |
|            | Amina Hirsi      | Somali Development Group (SDG)                      |
|            | Jama Ali         | Somali Mental Health & Drugs Project (SMHDP)        |
|            | Hibo Elmi        | Somali Mental Health & Drugs Project (SMHDP)        |
|            | Abiir Shirdoon   | Somali Mental Health & Drugs Project (SMHDP)        |
|            | Dheeho Yusuf     | Somali Mental Health & Drugs Project (SMHDP)        |
|            | Ahmed Awale      | Somali Disabled & Elderly Association (SDEA)        |
|            | Said Burale      | Somali Disabled & Elderly Association (SDEA)        |
|            | Abdi Mohamed     | Bristol Somali Media Group (BSMG)                   |
|            |                  | Elays Development Network (SDN)                     |
|            | Latif Ismail     | Transparency Research                               |
|            | Ahmed Duale      | LinkSan                                             |
|            | Farhan Ahmed     | Bristol City Council Community Cohesion Team        |
|            | Egeran Gibril    | Somali Advice Project (SAP)                         |
|            | Steve Wilmshurst | Easton Jubilee Trust (EJT)                          |

**Apologies:** Suad Abdullahi (Outgoing BSF Chair)  
Said (BSF Vice Chair)  
Ian Quaife  
Omar Sabriye

## Minutes

**Note:**

**Item: 1**

**Correction** – last meetings' minutes

SDA meant to be SDEA (Somali Disabled & Elderly Association).

**Item: 2**

**BSF structure** – Latif Ismail updated the group about the ongoing work of the BSF structure that his team (Transparency Research) were asked to carry out. The structure of the Forum (how the Forum will operate organisationally) supposed to be completed by February, but it's behind on schedule by two weeks. However, most of the work has been completed and the first draft will

be ready by the end of next week [week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March]. It will be circulated to members to comment it.

| Action                                                                                   | Responsible  | Deadline               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| BSF Structure document (1 <sup>st</sup> draft) to be completed and circulated to members | Latif Ismail | Before/by next meeting |

### Item: 3

**Community Consultation Strategy** – ‘BCC community consultation team have asked BSF members to comment the first draft of the new community strategy’, Ahmed Duale informed the group. ‘I’ve received the evaluation form by post. Therefore, we cannot comment it until we receive the final strategy. And we need to ask them an electronic copy’.

| Action                                                                           | Responsible                      | Deadline |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Ask the community consultation team an electronic copy of the community strategy | Members/ any member of the group |          |

### Item: 4

**The Commissioning Process** – The group discussed the limited support that Somali-led supplementary schools receive and the complexity of the Commissioning Process. Although CYPS (Children and Young People’s Services) has a Supplementary School Services, Somali-led organisations do not receive appropriate support, particularly capacity building support. Therefore, they are struggling to compete on the CYPS commissioning bids.

It was suggested that member organisations should/could check partnerships that they/we can work with.

### Item: 5

**BCC Community Cohesion** – First, the group welcomed Farhan Ahmed and congratulated for his new post as a Community Development Worker.

Farhan said that he was attending on behalf of Ian Quaife, Community Cohesion Manager, who was busy with the preparation of the new Community Cohesion Strategy; and he’s been asked to mention that the Community Safety Partnership officers would like to meet the group to discuss with the Stapleton Road Action Plan.

The action plan is being developed as a result of complaints from non-Somali residents in the area. They have complained about Somalis congregating on pavements, selling khat in car boots, khat wastes, etc. The officers, therefore, would like to meet Somalis after the Easter break in order to find the other side of the story.

The group then agreed to invite the officers in the BSF April meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The meeting will be hosted by SYEWF.

| <b>Action</b>                                              | <b>Responsible</b> | <b>Deadline</b>    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Confirm the venue of the meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> April | Khalil Abdi        | Beginning of April |

Farhan also said that BCC Community Cohesion team are waiting the outcome of the BSF (BSF Structure); likewise, the group discussed about the reshaping of BCC partnership structures which is underway. It's more transparent, and a better deal for local communities. And BSF should be part of the partnerships. However, BSF must get the commitment of the council, both the councillors and civil servants – i.e. at the moment we have individual contacts with elected council members and/or staff and we should maintain these contacts if they move, particularly staff.

| <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Responsible</b> | <b>Deadline</b>                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ask Mohamed Ismail, BCC Community Development Officer (Engagement Team), to explain to the group again about the new partnerships and their operations/procedures | Latif Ismail       | Before 25 <sup>th</sup> March meeting OR 22 <sup>nd</sup> April meeting |

#### **Item: 6**

**Election of BSF chair** – the group elected Latif Ismail as the Chair of the Forum for the next 12 months. They also agreed to elect the other 3 officers that will work with him in the next meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 as agreed.

Finally, the group thanked the outgoing management team for their hard work, commitment and the valuable work they have done for their community for the last twelve months. We all say: **"THANK YOU VERY MUCH!"**

| <b>Action</b>                                          | <b>Responsible</b>       | <b>Deadline</b>                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Handover and report from the outgoing management team. | Outgoing management team | To be presented at the meeting (25 <sup>th</sup> March) |

### **Next meeting:**

Date: **25<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Time: **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

Venue: **Muller Hall**