

Bristol Somali Forum Meeting

Date: 30 June 2011

Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Barton hill Settlement

Type of meeting: BSF monthly meeting

Chaired by: Latif Ismail

Attendees:	Full Name	Organisation
	Said Burale	Treasurer, BSF
	Abdi Mohamed	Secretary, BSF
	Latif Ismail	Chair, BSF
	Ahmed Abdi	Tawfiq Mosque
	Farhan Ahmed	Community Development, BCC
	Hassan Mohamed	Amaana
	Omar Sabriye	Somali Elder/Somali Resource Centre
	AbdiHakiim	Community Member
	Hibaq Jama	Community Action Network (CAN)
	Phil Cotgreave	CYPS Youth & Play
	Gladys Gibbs	CYPS Youth & Play
	Paul Williams	Fairfield High School
	Steve Vaughan	Avon and Somerset Police
	Abdullahi Farah	Somali Resource Centre
	Roger Allen	Housing, BCC
	Neil Burwell	Safer Bristol Communities Team
	Khalif Nur	Tawfiq Mosque
	Abdi Barud	Somali Resource Centre
	Ahmed Awale	Somali Disability & Elderly Association (SDEA)
Apologies:	Ian Quaife	Cllr Jon Rogers
	Sandy Cheetam	Cllr Gus Hoyt
	Jonathan Ames	Cllr Brenda Hughill
	Liban Obsiye	Cllr Margaret Hickman

Minutes

1. **Welcome:** Latif took the chair and welcomed everyone.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

It was agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters arising:**

3.1. Abdi Mohamed (AM) advised that Somali Forum has listened and took seriously the concerns of our members and partners regarding the inappropriate language used against a non-Somali speaking [Councillor Candidate] who was present in our April meeting. Although we immediately commented, responded and clearly stated that the Forum is a platform to engage with not just Somalis but to all

communities too. Hence, we are committed to make sure that all participants (or any member of our communities who attends/participates our meetings or activities) are treated equally and in accordance with the Forum's Constitution and Equal Opportunity Policy.

This policy specifically underlines our commitment to providing a shared voice and promoting access to local services for all our members. At the same time, it highlights our commitment to providing equality of opportunities for all.

Further, the Forum believes the behaviour of participants is a key factor to the success of our meetings. According to BSF Terms of Reference for meetings, all people attending any meeting of the Bristol Somali Forum must agree to abide by the Terms of Reference and act in a manner that supports equal opportunities for all. Therefore, all participants in BSF meetings must:

- Act appropriately and treat people and organisations with respect;
- Act in a way that is fair and unbiased;
- Allow everyone to take part without interruption or intimidation and treat everyone equally;
- Never speak in a way that may be perceived as bullying, abusive, discriminatory or derogatory;
- Never bring BSF into disrepute.

Please also refer to BSF Terms of Reference for meetings and the Equal Opportunity Policy.

Finally, I would stress that Bristol Somali Forum has unshakeable commitment to tackling inequality, promoting the interest of Somali organisations and strengthening the voice of the community.

Forum management have an important role in providing equal opportunities for all, but also they are responsible for overseeing and monitoring the effectiveness of the policy. Equally, all Forum members are expected to abide by the rules of the Constitution and strictly adhere to the policies and procedures of the organisation.

3.2. Latif Ismail (LI) also, in addition to the above statements, said we valued our differences and opinions. But this particular incident was not in line with our diversity policy. Members must always exhibit a conducive behaviour.

3.3. In relation to building positive relationship with schools, AM noted that the Head Teacher of Fairfield High School, Ms Catriona Mangham, sent a letter (in response to item 4.4 of the minutes of 3rd March 2011) and stated that she would be delighted to attend of our meetings and talk about the work Fairfield is

doing to engage students and parents and raise achievement. As a result, Paul Williams who is a Deputy Head Teacher is with us today.

4. BSF Update

4.1. BSF Education Task Group – we have already identified about 11 members who can possibly participate in the group, but we still need to identify female members. The group contains those who mainly involve or have had extensive experience in the education field.

4.2. The BSF Education Task Group would:

4.2.1. Address the lack of qualified Somali teachers to CYPS and to the Local Authorities;

4.2.2. Look at how to improve the positive engagement of Somali children and young people and their parents;

4.2.3. Address relevant issues that rank high on the list of community concern, amongst many other things, regarding education and children and families.

4.3. The Management Committee took steps to enable member organisations gain fair access to resources. Consequently, about 3 of our members received small grants. However, we are addressing the issue accordingly to relevant agencies and people.

4.4. CYPS Youth and Play – Abdi Mohamed and Said Burale met Phil Cotgreave twice and had discussion around Youth and Play services recruiting Somali volunteers/possible part time youth workers to work in its centres across East Central Bristol. This was in response to the lack of Somali youth workers in the Council and related issues that the Forum addresses, appropriately though.

4.5. Ashley Hustings – the Forum was asked to participate and chair the Ashley Political Awareness Event on 29 April 2011 which was organised by Ashley Community Housing, a member of the Somali Forum.

4.6. EC3 Bristol Youth Link Partnership --- Members of the management also attended the EC3 BYL partnership meetings to represent the Forum, but more importantly to promote the interest of member organisations (particularly youth organisations) by discussing what they could bring into a Consortium in EC3.

5. PREVENT (New Policy) – Steve Vaughan advised the new policy on Prevent concentrated on:

- ideologies;
- Institutions; and
- Individuals

5.1. There has been a policy shift around cohesion and integration.

5.2. The policy emphasises on radicalisation and it's linked with international issues and policies, relevantly.

5.3. Funding was allocated to only 25/90 Local Authorities and Bristol is not one of the hot spots.

6. CYPS Youth and Play Services: Somali Youth Workers ---

6.1. Phil Cotgreave said, following February meeting with Rose Richards, Service Manager – Youth & Play and Outdoor Education, we took the following actions to address the issue:

6.1.1. Committed to provide training for Somali Youth Workers to become qualified youth workers.

6.1.2. Moved the process with Somali Youth Forum intending to do activities at the Mill; similar process will also happen for Somali women.

6.1.3. Needed Somali Youth Workers – so we need to engage volunteers and train them. It is a complete youth education programme/social programme.

6.1.4. Recognised the importance of promoting role models.

6.1.5. Needed to build relationships with the youth and the community.

6.2. Gladys Gibbs also advised there were opportunities for career progress. And we needed to target the 20+ age group.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
List of names of Somali volunteers for Youth Work Training	Abdi Mohamed	ASAP
Engage the community – arrange a radio interview (with BCfm Somali Show) for Phil Cotgreave	Abdi Mohamed	ASAP
Support the Somali Youth Forum	Management Committee	TBA
Coordinate activities	Management Committee	TBA

7. AOB

7.1. Neil Burwell advised there were concerns about selling Khat on the streets and the negative impact. Therefore, could any member able to meet informally to have discussions about selling and distributing Khat?

7.2. NB also stated that the discussions would be on the health side of the Khat.

7.3. Said Burale asked if NB contacted relevant organisations such as Somali Mental Health and Drugs Project.

7.4. Abdi Barud also asked if NB engaged with those who are selling Khat.

7.5. AM said NB came with Fred Semple, a colleague at Safer Bristol, in our meeting on April 2010 (almost over a year ago) and discussed similar issues. Although

this was in relation to Stapleton Road Action Plan, they requested if they could meet members of the Forum to discuss about relevant issues including Khat and cultural issues, amongst many. However, nothing has happened although NB and his colleague received a list of names and contact details of eleven volunteers among the members. Thus, how can we make sure the agreed actions will be carried out? And what happened to last year's one anyway?

- 7.6. Regarding the above comment, NB said Penny Germon, Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Partnership Coordinator, was the right person to contact about Stapleton Road.
- 7.7. Farhan Ahmed stated we could not always deal with stigmatisation! And what is the impact on business?
- 7.8. Ahmed Awale asked if the Forum could form a committee that would deal with those who are selling Khat.
- 7.9. Latif Ismail concluded that the Local Authorities had not taken this issue seriously – this had to be a multi agency approach.
- 7.10. Regarding education, Paul Williams advised issue of language is a win-win situation. But the engagement with the Somali community is very crucial.
- 7.11. Hassan Mohamed informed the group there was a local health organisation, Horn Health Initiative, which developed a project which aims to get expert healthcare professions from UK to Somaliland and deliver healthcare interventions. All expenses are paid, so if you know anyone who is interested in participating or could benefit from this project please let us know.
- 7.12. Roger Allen advised that more people faced financial difficulties; younger people under 25 have the least access to bank accounts. And they end up paying more as most of the bills are paid by Direct Debit or electronically.
- 7.13. Steve Vaughan said they formed research partnership with UWE. They are looking the effects of school exclusion. But what are the implications for the Somalis?

Next Meeting:

Date: **28th July 2011**

Time: **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

Venue: **Barton Hill Settlement**