



Date: 07 June 2012
Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm
Venue: Barton Hill Settlement

DISCLAIMER: These meeting minutes are **DRAFT** minutes. And their status will remain that of a draft until approved at the subsequent meeting.

Bristol Somali Forum Minutes

Type of meeting: BSF Monthly Meeting

Chaired by: Abdi Mohamed

Attendance

Name	Title	Representing/Organisation Name
Abdi Mohamed	Secretary	Bristol Somali Forum
Abdullahi Farah	Office Manager	Somali Resource Centre
Amanda Frame	Police Sergeant	Avon and Somerset Police
Anna Reid	Project Coordinator (Temporary)	Easton Jubilee Trust
Anne James	Principal Equalities Officer	Equalities and Community Cohesion Team, Bristol City Council
Francois Jensen	Neighbourhood Facilitator	Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Management
Ismail Omar	Community Health Development Worker	NHS Bristol
Jayne Mills	Research and Statistics Officer	Strategic Planning Team, Bristol City Council
Kate Cooke	Community Health Development Worker	NHS Bristol
Liban Mumin	Equalities Chair	Bristol Link
Michaela Mulcahy	Sport and Health Development	Bristol City Council
Mohamed Mumin	Somali Elder	Somali Elders Group
Mohamed Abib	Advice Worker	Somali Resource Centre
Mohmoud Matan	Coordinator	Amana Education Trust
Nasir	Community Member	Somali Community
Omar Sabrie	Trustee / Somali Elder	Somali Resource Centre
Said Burale	Treasurer	Bristol Somali Forum
Suad Abdullahi	Migrant Learning & Support Coordinator	Learning Communities Team
Valerie Russell Emmot	Equality Adviser	Equality South West / Bristol Multi Faith Forum
Margaret Hickman	Councillor (Labour)	Bristol City Council
Clare Campion-Smith	Councillor (LibDem), Executive Member for Children and Young People	Bristol City Council
Gary Hopkins	Councillor (LibDem), Executive Member for Environment and Community Safety	Bristol City Council

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Latif Ismail
Hibaq Jama

Cllr Gus Hoyte
Ian Quaife

Sarah Dally
Roger Allen

Said Burale
Isobel MacDougall

Minutes of the Meeting

	Agenda Item/Topic	Notes
1	Equalities/Somali Calculator	Anne James (AJ) stated they had been receiving better data for Neighbourhood Partnerships and Wards, but equalities communities had been missing. A student (intern) from UWE had started writing a Somali profile. Then, Jayne Mills (JM) created a Somali calculator. JM said they were still relaying on the 2001 Census data; the results of last year's Census will be published at the end of the year. Although the size of the Somali population in Bristol had increased significantly, it's very difficult to produce any reliable estimates. In the press, it was quoted that 20 – 30, 000 Somalis are living in Bristol. The Bristol Somali Community Calculator was a methodology developed to estimate the number of Somalis in the city. It had estimated the size of the community by taking the number of births to Somali-born mothers and the number of Somali pupils in Bristol schools, and then using the assumptions about family size and type. The calculator was run over a number of times and the results showed that the number of Somalis in Bristol was estimated to be between 6,500 and 10,100. In 2010, 5% of all live births in Bristol were to Somalia-born mothers. This was a big increase when compared to pre 2001 figure – less than 50 live births per annum. The largest BME ethnic group in Bristol schools is Black Somali; One in 20 (5%) of all school children attending Bristol Local Authority maintained schools and academies is Somali. However, Somali children continue to underachieve when compared to the rest of Bristol's Local Authority and academies school population. The gap is particularly perceptible for the boys. The distribution of Somali pupils in Bristol schools was disproportioned across the city. In 2011, some schools had no Somali pupils whilst in others 56% of all pupils were Somali. Somali pupils are concentrated in the inner and eastern areas of the city. The highest proportions can be found in the wards of Lawrence Hill, Ashley and Easton. Results from a 2007 survey 'Muslim Communities in Bristol' found that 28% of Somali households are single person or couples with no children and 72% of Somali households include children. Bristol had the second highest number of Somali nationals registering for National Insurance. There were 850 Somali tenants, 3.07% of council tenants (where we know the ethnic origin) are of Somali origin (2010 profile of council tenants).

		Comments and Questions Mohamed Abib (MA): Somali children are over represented in SEN, could you let us know the exact number. In response to the above question, AJ said that SEN was undergoing a big review change. But there were concerns from the Somali community about the autistic spectrum. Valerie R. Emmott (VRE) stressed the inaccurate statistics that the city has experienced was an issue. Cllr Hickman stated that Somalis were advantaged in housing, but it did not mean that this was not an issue. Suad Abdullahi (SA) questioned the accuracy of the School Census data, particularly the ethnic profiling. Because it was known Somali pupils and their parents have lacked understanding of the definition of ethnicity classifications. Some of them would tick the Black African box, while others might choose the Black Somali or Black other. Abdi Mohamed (AM) also added that Somali pupils and their parents, most of them, could not differentiate between ethnicity and nationality was an existing fact and hence a pressing need to generate more reliable data from the School Census. Regarding AM's question about workforce participation of the Somali community, AJ said many Somalis have worked for Bristol City Council, but they were mainly in low level jobs such as cleaning. But the exact number of Somali professionals working for the Council could be found.
2	FGM – Community Engagement and Participation	Kate Cooke (KC) introduced the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) summer campaign. The summer has been identified as a high risk time for children who undergo FGM to be taken outside. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness that FGM is illegal and a child protection issue. It is illegal to organise or arrange any form of FGM for any UK resident. The law also protects women and girls who may be having FGMM in countries outside of the UK. AbdiRahman Farah (ARF) also stated that engagement work with Imams had started so as to provide a yearlong training regarding safeguarding, child protection, First Aid, and teacher training (particularly supplementary schools). Hopefully, at least 10 Imams will complete their training by the end of the year. Comments and Questions Omar Sabriye: Imams are very important figures in the society. So how are you qualified to teach them? Also the contribution of the community is missing. ARF, following the above comment, said the idea was to coordinate relevant training courses and opportunities available to them. Mumin also stated that FGM was not based on our religion. Even the FGM awareness campaigns were happening in Somalia.

		KC informed the group that data (number of Somali girls in Bristol effected by FGM) was a real stumbling block.
3	Community Safety	SGT Amanda Frame reported that on 14 July 2012 the English Defence League (EDL) will have marched in Bristol. The Council, with the advice of the police, had decided not to ban the march. This was against the wishes of many residents. In order to ban the march, the Council had to know a potential disorder. And if you ban it, you would not have an organiser (accountable person/body) and a route. Hence, prone to a public disorder. Banning the march did not work for Leicester and Luton. That is a good example, lessons were learnt. The protest will be heavily policed; a national police operation had been planned and the route is well away from Mosques and community areas. Cllr Hopkins also added that we wished they would not be here, but we did not grounds to keep them out of the city. However, I was convinced the policing operation will be thorough. Comments and Questions VRE questioned about their hate speech although they were claiming to promote Human Rights. In addition, MA said racism and hate crime had an impact on children. For example, recently, a primary school pupil had stood up in front of the class and asked other pupils to raise their hands if they hate Muslims? And Blacks? Cllr Hopkins stressed the importance of dealing with those kinds of incidents in schools accordingly. The EDL aim was to divide the community and to start confrontations. In relation to comments and questions about community awareness and EDL sympathisers in Bristol, SGT Frame said police officers and PCSOs had contacted and briefed mosques and communities. Equally, involvement of the community groups and Neighbourhood Forums was deemed crucial. There was, however, complete concord among the participants that combating racism and increasing/building cultural awareness would need time.
4	AOB	N/A

		Action Items	Responsible	Due by	Comment
1	1.1	Provide electronic copies of the Somali community profile and the Power Point presentation	Jayne Mills	ASAP	Task completed. Both copies were forwarded to members by Abdi
	1.2	Number of Somali children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)	Anne James	12 July 2012	Completed.
	1.3	Find out the exact number of Somali professionals working for the Council	Anne James	12 July 2012	Pending
2		Make sure that the voice of the community is heard strategically and their contribution is acknowledged by developing a link with the FGM Delivery Group	Somali Forum Management	ASAP	Pending
3		Liaise with the Building Bridge, Bristol Multi Faith Forum and the Police	Somali Forum Management	12 July 2012	On going

Date of next meeting	
5	12 July 2012
	11.00 am – 1.00 pm
	Barton Hill Settlement
	41 - 43 Ducie Road
	Lawrence Hill
	Bristol BS5 0AX