

Bristol Somali Forum Meeting (BSF)

Date: 02 December 2010

Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Barton Hill Settlement

Type of meeting: BSF Monthly Meeting

Chaired by: Latif Ismail

Present **BSF Management Committee**

Latif Ismail, Chair
Dheeho Yusuf, Deputy Chair
Said Burale, Treasurer
Abdi Mohamed, Secretary

In attendance: **Full Name** **Organisation/Representing**

Abdullahi Farah	Somali Resource Centre
Omar Sabriye	Somali Resource Centre
Liban Obsiye	Amana Education Trust
Ahmed Abdi	Tawfiq Mosque
Dalmar Osman	Somali Development Group
Nura Aabe	Somali Autism Project

Also present:

Suad Abdullahi	BCC, Migration Fund Project
Barry Scruse	BCC, Self Directed Support
Jeff Green	BCC, Self Directed Support
Margaret Hickman	
Steve Vaughan	Avon and Somerset Police
Liz Fox	Bristol NHS
Roger Allen	BCC Housing
Valerie R Emmott	Business Link
Farhan Ahmed	BCC cohesion Team
Justin Ricks	Outset Bristol
AbdiRahman Farah	City Academy Bristol
Mukhtar Abdi	Bilingual Family Mentoring Project, CAB
Cllr Brenda P. Hugill	Councillor (Lab), Lawrence Hill Ward

Apologies: Apologies were received from:

Steve Wilmshurst
AbdiHakim Asir
Ian Quaife

Minutes

1 Latif took the chair and welcomed everyone.

2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th November 2010 were agreed.
- **Matters arising:**

2.2.1 Census 2011 – Somali Forum to organise clinics (workshops) to increase awareness among the community.

3 **BSF Update**

Abdi Mohamed, BSF Secretary, said the Forum will have an office by the end of the month. The Forum will therefore have a permanent a base/address: St Agnes Lodge, Thomas Street, Bristol BS2 9LJ.

4 **Housing**

4.1 **Roger Allen & Abdullahi Farah**

- Somali tenants face a range of issues when accessing services including language barriers, IT literacy and understanding housing (or service) terminology.
- There is a low take up of housing benefits among the BME tenants.
- In order to address some of these issues we've set up a Service Point (an online help centre) at the Barton Hill Settlement with the help of the Somali Resource Centre.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Benefit Calculator – Roger Allen to send copies of how to?	Abdi	ASAP

5 **Business Support**

- **Valerie Russell Emmott (Business Link) and Justin Ricks (Outset Bristol):**
 - Somali businesses are striving for success despite a lack of engagement with business service advisers and agencies.
 - Business Link and Outset Bristol aim to understand and improve the local environment, help people to become self-employed, provide free support/advice and help people access to funding, many a list.
 - Understanding the needs --- it is very important to gain a good understanding of the needs of Somalis so as to provide appropriate support and training (specific/tailored training). This includes:
 - Skills support.
 - Apprenticeship.
 - Help clients find the right training.
- The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:
 - Support – when working with the Somalis and in relation to the Somali culture, agencies need to understand the difference between financial support and business support.
 - Explore the best way to reach and engage with the Somali community.
 - It has been acknowledged that Somalis are good with business and have high success rate.
 - Diversify the business skills of the Somali people.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Increase awareness of available business support among the community by working in partnership with the Somali Forum and relevant organisations	Forum Management	TBA

6 Self Directed Support (SDS)

6.1 Barry Scruse and Jeff Green:

- SDS is a Government agenda to build on the success for Direct Payment.
- Direct Payment was beneficial to Somalis.
- SDS enforces that services must be culturally sensitive to people's needs and the assessment (SDS questionnaire) was designed to be a user friendly.
- Among key benefits of the programme include:
 - Allows individuals to create indicative personal plan.
 - Personal care plan – meeting the individual more flexibly.
 - Requires service users to spend the money accordingly, and more appropriately.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Ongoing conversation to inform the service provider how to or what is the best way to take forward this	Forum Management	TBA

9.0 AOB

- **Autism in the community:**
 - **Nura Abbe** – Somalis have a higher autism among the local communities. We have tried to address these issues through partnership working. We have delivered training sessions with the National Autistic Society.
 - The needs of those with autism and their families (about 30 Somali families in Bristol) have not been addressed appropriately.
 - It has been reported that 60% of pupils with special needs in the city are Somalis.
 - The help of the Forum is greatly needed.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Address the needs of those with autism (and their families)	Forum Management	ASAP
Increase awareness of autism and related issues among the Somalis	Forum Management	TBA

Date of Next Meeting: Date: 3rd February 2011 Time: 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Venue: Council House, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR