

Bristol Somali Forum Meeting

Date: 28 July 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
	Latif Ismail	Chair, BSF
	Hibaq Jama	Deputy Chair, BSF
	Abdi Mohamed	Secretary, BSF
	Omar Sabriye	Somali Elder/Somali Resource Centre
	Phil Cotgreave	CYPS Youth & Play
	Nic Ferris	Walking for Health, BCC
	Kate Cooke	Health Promotion Specialist, NHS Bristol
	Steve Vaughan	Avon and Somerset Police
	Abdullahi Farah	Somali Resource Centre
	Roger Allen	Housing, BCC
	Maggie Reardon	Barton Hill Settlement
	Cllr Farouk Choudhury	Councillor (Labour) Easton Ward
	Mariateresa Bucciante	Old Market Community Association
Apologies:	Ian Quaife	Gladys Gibbs
	Farhan Ahmed	Cllr Gus Hoyt
	Said Burale	Cllr Brenda Hughill
	Abdul Malik	Cllr Margaret Hickman
	Neil Burwell	Keith Openshaw
	Sarah Dailly	Andrew Whelpton
	Penny Germon	

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:**

Abdi Mohamed (AM) advised that Neil Burwell had contacted (sent emails) – regarding the selling and distribution of Khat – and stated that although the two arranged meetings to discuss the street selling of Khat with a delegation of the Somali Forum had not taken place, another meeting was now scheduled on 5th August at 10.00 a.m.

- Following the above statement, Cllr Farouk Choudhury said issues should be addressed at the Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) level. Currently, in Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill NP, for example, there were three main meetings (the Neighbourhood Partnership, the Neighbourhood Forums and Stapleton Road Working Group) – we did a lot on Stapleton Road since the death of the young Somali boy last year, but how come that you (the Somali Forum) are not part of it; you should be involving these meetings, activities.
- Cllr Choudhury also said there was a communication gap and officers should feedback to the NP Forums. The Somali Forum should equally address issues in

the NP meetings; you should also contact the Police and Penny Germon, the NP Coordinator, to understand what was happening on Stapleton Road.

- In relation to Cllr Choudhury's comments:
 - AM stated that the Somali Forum have always encouraged its members to participate and attend the NP meetings and activities. Although we are not part of the Stapleton Road Working Group, I believe this will happen soon. In addition to this, Penny Germon contacted us and indicated that she would welcome the opportunity to talk with the group about Stapleton Road despite she could not attend today's meeting (see apologies).
 - Latif Ismail (LI) advised that Penny contacted him too and indicated she wanted to attend our meetings. However, we'll make sure to give her an agenda item when appropriate.
 - Hibaq Jama (HJ) said there was a capacity issue in terms of the Somali Forum involving every activity or all relevant activities.
 - Phil Cotgreave (PC) informed the group that Rick Palmer is tasked to coordinate activities and he should be invited to the Forum.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Inform Rick Palmer about the above points (discussions on Stapleton Road). Also pass Abdi's contact details to him.	Phil Cotgreave	Before next meeting

4. Updates

Regarding the actions agreed in the last meeting, AM provided the following information:

- List of names of young Somali volunteers who wish to participate CYPS Youth and Play Youth Work Training will be forwarded to Phil Cotgreave within the next 2/3 weeks or as soon as we receive it.
- I contacted BCfm Somali Women's Show presenters, Muna and Sagal, to arrange a radio interview for Phil Cotgreave regarding volunteering and Volunteer Training of Somali Young People. They are into their summer break now and they will be back on 5th September.
- I discussed how BSF could support the Somali Youth Forum under Amaana with Mohmoud Matan and Liban Obsiye, and AbdiQani Wayd who is the lead person for the youth. BSF would provide support to them as they are a member, but also to maintain and strengthen the link with the Youth and Play Services.
- The Management Committee has yet to look at how to coordinate youth activities delivered by member organisations.
- BSF elections had taken place on 14th July 2011 and the following officers were elected to manage the Forum for the next 12 months:
 - Latif Ismail, Chair
 - Hibaq Jama, Deputy Chair
 - Said Burale, Treasurer
 - Abdi Mohamed, Secretary

5. BSF achievements and Future Plans

LI would circulate a written report.

6. Somali Resource Centre

- Abdullahi Farah informed there was a service gap in the area. Two important organisations for the community had now gone and people have come to us (in

their place) for advice and information. Although we have not been funded to deliver that kind of work, we have tried to engage volunteers.

- Cllr Choudhury said my case work had gone up too and we need to work collaboratively. You should also inform your councillors continuously, we (councillors) could help to allocate officers, move things forward.
- Maggie Reardon stated that a lot of the work had been moved to St Pauls Advice Centre. We could therefore try to approach them and get somebody from there and take it forward – see the impact.

7. Community Safety

LI stated that as the owner of this agenda item, Stuart King, is not present at the moment, the Forum would dedicate this important topic to one of our future meetings.

8. Health Promotions

Kate Cook (KC), Health Promotion Specialist, NHS Bristol, informed the group the Community Health Team have:

- Worked health issues on one-to-one basis to those who need behaviour change.
- Worked with women.
- Supported refugee women with FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) work such as raising awareness.
- Planned an event on women's health issues on 15th September 2011 at Easton Leisure Centre.

Nicola Ferris (NF), Sports Development Worker (Health Walks), Sport Services BCC, also said that they have:

- Worked with community development workers across the city to set up walking groups.
- Provided training; Ismail Omar trained 5 Somali women from Bushara Women's Group.
- Intended to deliver activities on Fridays when Bushara women hold their activities. Would also make sure to be accessible to Somali Women's Voice.
- Aimed to target or work with specific age groups – only over six-teens.
- Usually supported new groups for the first six months. But hoped to support the walking groups till next year. Had 4 Health Trainers supporting the groups.

Below are the ensuing discussions after the brief reports about community health projects from KC and NF:

- LI said we must also address Somali specific issues such as Vitamin D deficiencies and diet.
- HJ stressed the importance of promoting healthy eating among the community. For instance, Stapleton Road has a number of takeaways – more than what can be possibly allowed to operate an area which has a high number of low income families, single parents, and high rate unemployment, among a list - which sell unhealthy food. The sheer scale of the problems that this has created is unbelievable.
- Cllr Choudhury said this has nothing to do with the Planning Committee. The issue must be raised at the NP Forums.
- In relation to FGM, Omar Sabriye stated that the practice is not popular any more within the community. Over the past 15 years, the Somali community have done a

lot of work, tackled the issue. But it seemed that others are making a big meal out of it; they are not trying to find out the truth. They need to acknowledge the perception of the community regarding FGM, rather than making films that created contentious issues and tensions within the community. Their approach has strengthened the misconception about the community. In addition, there were cases where family homes were raided on the basis that they might be trying to practice FGM! As a result, families had been stopped to go on holiday – how such a thing can happen without substantiating evidence.

- KC confirmed the film, Silent Scream, was not supported by the City Academy although pupils at the school had involved. The film was funded by a national charity called FORWARD.
- HJ said, generally, the work of the film had been conducted inappropriately, because it had alienated those it had supposedly aimed: Somali women – particularly adults – and parents. Moreover, both the community and parents had been neither consulted nor informed appropriately. However, I believe FGM is an issue even if it involves one child, but this was not the case. The most serious issue facing the community at the moment is the young Somalis hanging out on Stapleton Road. And if we are really committed to help the Somali community, we should address and tackle this issue – the increasing number of young Somalis idly gathering or hanging out on Stapleton Road and doing nothing is of serious concern.
- Steve Vaughan stated that police thought FGM is secretive within the community. So, is there a good quality research out there?

Action	Responsible	Deadline
The Forum to get together and look at how to address this issue, FGM and its misconceptions.	Management Committee	To be agreed
Somali Forum should link with the FGM Steering Group – find out relevant details including date of next meeting.	Kate Cook	ASAP

9. Old Market Association

Mariateresa Bucciante said:

- We are working to regenerate Old Market.
- There is a large LGB community; the area is not an attraction for the ethnic communities.
- People from Old Market do not generally go across Stapleton Road because they have said they feel intimidated.
- We planned to open stalls in the market and we need help with attracting more people.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Provide information about Old Market relevant to the work of the Association	Mariateresa Bucciante	ASAP

10. AOB

10.1. Cllr Choudhury:

- Voluntary budget had been cut. This will put stress on Stapleton Road. We have intended to use derelict space under M32 – near Shah Jalal Mosque. W wanted to make the space a useful one and we need you help. I would send a petition (electronically) to Abdi so it could be circulated among members.
- On Stapleton Road, we had a short-term plan and we need your help – ideas on the medium and long-term plan.

10.2. Roger Allen provided the following:

- Somali CD on housing.
- Information about the happy city initiative; spread the happiness in Bristol.

Next Meeting:

Date: **29th September 2011**

Time: **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

Venue: **Barton Hill Settlement**