

Bristol Somali Forum Meeting (BSF)

Date: 17 June 2010

Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Barton Hill Settlement

Type of meeting: BSF monthly meeting

Chaired by: Abdi Mohamed

Present

BSF Management Committee

Dheeho Yusuf, Deputy Chair

Said Burale, Treasurer

Abdi Mohamed, Secretary

In attendance:

Full Name

Organisation/Representing

Hibo Elmi

Somali Mental Health & Drugs Project

Abdullahi Farah

Somali Resource Centre

Omar Sabriye

Community Elder/Somali Resource Centre

Khalif Nur

Amana/Hannah More Primary School

Ahmed Abdi

Towfiq Mosque and Community Centre/
Barton Hill Primary School/Somali Resource

Mohamoud Mumin

Amana

Ahmed Mohamed

Bristol Somali Youth & Cultural Society (BSYCS)

Also present:

Roger Allen

BCC Housing

Anne James

BCC Equality & Community Cohesion

AbdiAziz Hassan

British Red Cross

Mukhtar Abdi

Bilingual Family Mentoring Project

Keith Openshaw

Avon and Somerset Police

SGT Jon Ames

Avon and Somerset Police

Apologies: Apologies were received from:

Latif Ismail

Mohamed Ismail

Mohamoud Matan

Ian Quaife

Minutes

1. Abdi took the chair and welcomed everyone.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th May 2010 were agreed.

2. **Matters arising:**

2.2.1 None.

3. **BSF Update**

1. Dheeho Yusuf, BSF Deputy Chair, reported that the Management Committee had a meeting with Gillian Douglas, Equalities and Community Cohesion Manager, and discussed with her about the development and progress of the Forum including:
 1. **Resources** – both on the short and long-term future of the Forum.
 2. **Launching event** – the official launching event of the Forum and recognition of its achievements so far.
 3. **Commissioning process** – how the Forum can strategically participate the Council's commissioning process.
 4. **Influencing strategic boards** – the Forum must be enabled to influence strategic boards and forums in the city, such as:
 1. The Race Forum
 2. Bristol Partnership
 3. Safer Bristol
 4. Black Consortium Group
2. **The bi-monthly meeting between Bristol City Council (BCC) and the Somali community** – the Forum will have a bigger role. BCC will plan and deliver all future meetings in partnership with the Somali Forum.

4. **Equalities**

1. Anne James (AJ), Principal Equalities Officer, presented a report about equalities information briefing – particularly, Data Gathering: data on service uptake, satisfaction and employment.
2. AJ explained the importance of 'equalities mapping' and said that equalities legislation and the Equality Framework for Local Government required local authorities to measure the equalities profile of its workforce, service uptake, service satisfaction and equality outcomes.
3. In her report, AJ noted the following points:
 1. The 2001 Census estimated that there were 5 300 Black Africans, including Somalis, in Bristol (2008 estimates). This is 1.4% of the local population.
 2. If the Somali people complete and return the census forms at the next census in 2011, then we will have more reliable

figures on what is the % of Somali people in the local population and their social and economic needs.

3. In order to influence decision making, you need the right statistics.
 4. **Employment** – Bristol City Council have:
 1. 24 Somali employees (0.2%) – including those who work in schools.
 2. 150 Black African employees (1%).
 3. 6.8% BME employees within the total council workforce including schools.
 4. Somalis are under-represented in the workforce.
 5. **Housing** – Bristol City Council have:
 1. 746 Somali tenants (2.2%).
 2. 1054 Black African tenants.
 3. Somalis are over-represented as tenants in an advantageous service.
 6. **Education** – in 2008 there were 196 Somali children in nursery school which was 6.4% of the total number of children and 1749 children in primary and secondary schools which was 3.8% of the total number of children.
 7. At the moment we would estimate only 1.2% of service uptake to be from Somali population.
 8. If the census 2011 reports the figure to be nearer 3% of the population then this becomes our new measurement.
4. In response to questions about the percentage of Black young offenders, attainment in schools and equalities training, AJ said that the Forum must contact relevant persons/managers to find out specific information.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
BCC to provide Equalities Training to the Somali Forum and its members	Abdi Mohamed	To be agreed
Identify contact persons/managers for improving attainment, young offenders, adult education, etc	Dheeho Yusuf	ASAP
Workshops for employment applications – AJ's colleague, Simon Nelson, is organising.	Abdi Mohamed	To be agreed with Simon Nelson

		and Anne James
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1. Somali Resource Centre (SRC)

1. Abdullahi Farah (AF), SRC Manager, informed the group that SRC was established in 2006 to respond to the needs of the local Somali community. SRC has provided the following services:

1. **Community cohesion and integration** – to promote greater integration and cohesion at a neighbourhood level, and city wide.
2. **Capacity building** – to enable Somalis to develop and/or enhance their skills, but also to positively contribute to the success of the local communities and to society.
3. **Advocacy** – support provision for:
 1. Victims of domestic violence.
 2. Families with children in the care system.
 3. Victims of racial and institutional discrimination.
 4. Newly arrived individuals.
 5. Families with children at risk of coming in contact with the criminal justice.

1. Mediation services:

1. Community mediation.
2. Family mediation.

2. Information, Advice and Guidance on:

1. Welfare.
2. Housing.
3. Immigration.
4. Education and employment.

2. AF said that they have had 1.5 full-time staff and 4 volunteers, and some of the board members work as volunteers in relation to a question about the number of staff that deliver the range of services on offer.

2. British Red Cross

1. AbdiAziz Hassan, Project Coordinator, presented information about the British Red Cross and its services. There was a lack of information and

awareness among the Somali community in Bristol. The following services were on offer:

- 1. First Aid training**
- 2. Tracing Services**
- 3. Refugee Services**

Action	Responsible	Deadline
First Aid training	Abdi Mohamed	To be agreed with AbdiAziz Hassan
Information about BRC's tracing and refugee services	Abdi Mohamed	Contact AbdiAziz ASAP

3. Bilingual Family Mentoring Project

- 1.** Mukhtar Abdi (MA), Bi-lingual Family Project Co-ordinator, said that the project was funded by CYPS; although it is based at the City Academy, it is for the city wide.
- 2.** MA also noted the following key points:
 - 1.** The aim of the project is to improve attainment, increase employability and build social cohesion.
 - 2.** Dealing with attendance and isolation issues are integral part of the project.
 - 3.** The project also advocates on behalf of clients.
 - 4.** The project has 4 Somali speaking staff, 2 Polish speakers, 1 Urdu Punjabi speaker and 2 ESOL tutors.
 - 5.** Each of the project staff has a target of 10 cases for every three months.
 - 6.** The project used to work in conjunction with the Recession Mitigation Project.
- 3.** The following statements were noted in the ensuing discussion:
 - 1.** The project does not only provide ESOL tutors for children, but pays their travel expenses too – that is to attend school and out of school support classes.
 - 2.** The Somali Forum is a good platform to use and engage with organisations and agencies, both statutory and voluntary.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Somali Forum must take the lead and coordinate	Management	To be

activities	Committee	agreed
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4. BSF Stop Press

1. Said Burale and Abdi Mohamed stressed the need to return completed membership forms with fees so as to formalise the Forum's memberships.
2. None of the member organisations has returned the membership form circulated by Said Burale, the Forum's Treasurer, on Tuesday 18 May 2010.
3. According to the Forum's constitution, each group must have completed a membership application form giving the details required.
4. Forum's membership needs to be renewed annually.
5. Clause 21 (Forum Constitution) states:

"Each group's membership and commitment to the Forum shall be renewed every year, giving up-to-date details on the Application Form (but a group's constitution and rules only need sending again if they have changed)."

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Remind member organisations to complete and return their membership form, with the annual fee.	Said Burale	Before the next meeting on 15 July 2010

1. AOB

1. SGT Jon Ames, Neighbourhood Police Team Sergeant, talked about criminal activity in the area and issues related to Towfiq Mosque, the new mosque in Barton Hill. The sergeant said that:
 1. Somalis were concerned about issues around the mosque, and we have engaged with them through to the mosque leadership and provided support for the mosque.
 2. We have monitored the Face Book site against the mosque 'No we do not want a mosque in Barton Hill' which has become anti-Islamic.
 3. A large number of crimes have been reported in the area.
 4. Culprits were both non-Somalis and Somalis.
 5. PCSOs will have had the responsibility to look after the Mosque.

2. Members of the group also noted the following:
 1. Somalis were seriously concerned about drug related issues.
 2. Some of the local people felt uneasy about the number of Somali people in the area.
 3. A review of the security of the mosque has indicated that the mosque was secure – structurally overall.
 4. Funding was being sought to make sure the shell of the building is secure too.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Increase awareness of the Neighbourhood Watch activities among Somalis by liaising with Keith Openshaw	Management Committee	By 15 July 2010

3. Tennant Participation

1. Roger Allen mentioned that specific training for Basic Food Hygiene Certificate can be organised for the Somalis (maybe in September).
2. Housing policies around security and visiting homes were being developed.

Date of Next Meeting:

Date: **15th July 2010**

Time: **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

Venue: **Barton Hill Settlement**

41-43 Ducie Road

Lawrence Hill, Bristol BS5 0AX

Future Dates 2010				
August	September	October	November	December
12	09	07	04	02