

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Network

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The forum is set up to provide a medium for open discussion and debate regarding the issues concerning the Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Groups in the Tameside region

2. AIMS and Objectives

The BME network aims to develop a voice for the Tameside BME communities through:

- . To develop stretchers for clear, open and efficient compunction to take place between the MBE groups
- . To building links within and between communities
- . To build stronger, closer and egalitarian relationships between the many different BME voluntary and community groups.

3. Membership

Membership is open to all individuals from MBE communities who live and /or work in Tameside

4. Accountability and Reporting

The MBE Network is accountable to its members, and to Tameside voice. Reports are made to Tameside voice at its meetings, and published in the T3SC newsletter.

5. Principles and Process

- . The BME Network is committed to the Tameside Local Compact, and works according to the principles of:
 - . INCLUSION
 - . Democracy
 - . Effective participation
 - . Representation through its established accountability structures
- . The contribution of all members of the Network is equally respected and valued
- . Differences are respected, and where possible decisions will be made by consensus

6. Representation

6.1 Tameside Voice

The MBE Network elects members to Tameside Voice; there are 2 places for each of the main BME communities in Tameside, who currently are:

Indian

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Pakistani

Bangladesh

African

T3SC will continually seek to identify and encourage the participation of other resident communities and of emerging communities within Tameside.

Each community will present its own 2 nominations to the Network for formal ratification. Nominations will have been made through democratic process within each community, which will be supported by T3SC. Nominees must have agreed in advance that they are willing to serve on Tameside Voice. There is no maximum period of office, but the Network is required to advise T3SC each year of the names of its representatives.

Voice Members are expected to:

- . Attend as many meetings of Voice as possible
- . Talk to their nominating/ networks forums about issues to bring forward to voice
- . Report back to their nominating forums from voice
- . Take part in other meetings on behalf of Tameside Voice
- . Work together in partnership to develop a strong voice for the VCS in Tameside
- . Attend any training & development opportunities where possible and relevant

6.2 Tameside Strategic Partnership Board (TSP)

1 place, together with a shadow place, is available on TSP Board for the BME Network, to be elected from among the BME representatives to Tameside Voice. Representatives serve for a period of 2 years, and elections are held at the AGM of Voice (July). TSP Board Reps are expected to:

- . Attend as many meetings of TSP as possible
- . Attend briefing sessions prior to Board meeting together with the other Voice Reps
- . Inform T3SC if they are unable to attend Board meetings so that arrangements can be made to fill the place at the table
- . Attend and report back to Tameside Voice and the BME Network

7. Chairing

The Network will elect a chair and a Deputy Chair each year, at its meeting in or before July. The Deputy Chair is the Chair elect, and will automatically become the Chair for the following year. Any member may put themselves forward to serve as Chair, and must have secured the support of 3 or more other members before their nomination can be put to the meeting.

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Role of Chair:

- . To chair the meetings of the Network
- . To set the Agenda for the meetings
- . To work closely with T3SC Team to ensure the smooth running of the Network
- . To represent the Network in other areas where appropriate

8. Servicing and development support

The Network is serviced and supported by T3SC, mainly through its BME Development Worker.

T3SC will provide:

- . Administration support in organising and publicising the meetings
- . Secretariat support to take minutes, prepare papers and assist the Chair in agenda setting
- . Development support to:
 - . Reach out to and visit communities across Tameside
 - . Enable opportunities to network and to work in partnership
 - . Identify unmet needs, and find ways to meet them
 - . Signpost groups to T3SC Support & Development Team, or other Sources of help as appropriate
- . Opportunity for BME representatives to influence policy and planning T3SC is committed to ensuring that the interests of BME communities in Tameside are promoted by the Network and its representatives.

9. Review of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference, once agreed will be reviewed every 2years to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Network.