

**Tameside Black and Minority Ethnic Network Meeting  
Minutes – 28th July 2005 6.30pm – 9.00pm  
At T3SC Offices**

**Present** –Ali Reza (chair), Saeed Qureshi, Manzoor Ali Ruksana Ali, S. Ibrahim, Aysha Miah, Govinbhai Mistry, M.Masud, Ishverlal Mistry, Shantilal Bhana.

**Guest Officers** – Stuart McLeod (Mosaic Project, London)  
Philip Singleton – Tameside Blind Association  
Mavis Clarke – Visual Impairment Team -TMBC

**Officer in Attendance:** Hakeel Qureshi.

**Apologies:** Amrit Mistry, Morar Mistry

**1) Philip Singleton – Tameside Blind Association**

Philip gave a presentation on the work and remit that he and his staff do at Tameside Blind Association, which has been going for 30 years working with people with visual impairment.

Tameside Blind Association is a charity registered organisation who work in collaboration with Social Services and provides grass root level help, advice and activities that have a visual impairment.

Philip stated that there are around 220,000 people who live in Tameside, out of which 3,000 are known to Tameside Blind Association to have a visual impairment. There are others who may also have this disability but are not known to them.

Philip also stated that women due to health reasons suffer more with eye problems than men and Philip's team provide help and assistance to visually impaired people through offering advice and help on a one to one service and also provide training to groups and individuals who work with visually impaired people.

Philip also mentioned that they were looking for people to volunteer to help out at Tameside Blind Association and were looking for people from the BME community to help with some language barriers that they may face.

Philip mentioned that he is trying to make contact with BME communities and if any groups of individuals are aware of people with visual impairment to contact Philip at Tameside Blind Association so they can help them as much as they can.

Philip's contact details are as follows if any body would like to contact him:

**3 Wellington Parade**

**Dukinfield**

**Cheshire**

**SK16 4LE Tel: 0161 343 4090**

## **2) Mavis Clarke – Visual Impairment Team**

Mavis has just started in her role with TMBC working with domestic facilities and home life with people with visual impairment. Mavis mentioned that she works closely with Tameside Blind Association and is looking at visiting the BME groups and their Community Centres to talk in detail of the work that she is involved in and the help that she can provide.

Mavis can be contacted from the details below:

***Visual Impairment Team***  
***Stalybridge Resource Centre***  
***Tel: 0161 342 2569***

## **3) Stuart McLeod – Mosaic Project – London**

Stuart McLeod came from London to speak to the local BME community groups about getting involved in National Parks and Open Spaces. The Mosaic Project is managed by the Council for National Parks and comprises of four National Park Authorities, the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and the Breacon Beacons.

Stuart showed some pictures of BME groups and individuals who have benefited from the visit to their local national park and are looking at getting their own local groups involved. Mosaic project is hoping to achieve more involvement from BME communities to access local national parks. At present 7.9% people access the national park on a national level. Only 1% makes up the BME communities.

The project aims to achieve a better understanding of the environment and how to relate with different communities. Stuart took names of a visit to the Yorkshire dales as quite a lot of people wanted to go there was only 6 places on this visit. (A letter will be sent to those that have been selected)

It was decided that a visit for BME groups from Tameside would be arranged in partnership with the mosaic project and T3SC for the groups to see their local national park in order to get a taster. So they may take their own community in the future. **This is to be confirmed!**

## **4) Any other business**

A consultation document was handed out regarding community involvement from the council as they are looking to working with community and voluntary groups more closer after the beacon 6 status

## **5) Next Meeting**

The next **meeting** will be joined with the **T3SC AGM 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005** at **Hyde Town Hall** from **5.00PM to 10.00PM** to **increase participation and to join and network with other forums and individuals from the Tameside area.**

