



Housing Matters in Camden

Housing is one of those issues that is universally important to all species on our planet. Camden residents are no exception to this rule. Indeed, Camden suffers from a lack of both private and council housing.

In my time as a Community Engagement Officer has alerted me to the varied housing issues by all communities in particular localities. BME housing issues in Camden present a profile of

- Overcrowding, leading to family conflict, adverse effects on school achievement.
- Racism
- Housing in state of disrepair
- Difficulty in navigating the internet based bidding system.

However for the purposes of this article I wish to report on a more positive note.

Camden Council has recently been consulting with its tenants and leaseholders, and approached CBMEA to facilitate consultations with users of key BME community centres and organisations.

The consultation period has now ended, and the Council, in partnership with CBMEA consulted with members of the following communities.

- Banladeshi
- Somali
- Irish
- Chinese
- Cypriot

The consultations were well attended with reasonable feedback from the tenants and leaseholders. For an update on the consultation, please see page 11 of this newsletter.

What I would like to comment on is the open and frank nature of the discussions that took place. I would like to report on this work in order to illustrate a good example of community engagement in practice, and how vital it is for BME groups to continue to articulate the needs of their users on matters of importance. Of the service provider to meet service user face to face. Personally, I feel that this a model that is best for statutory bodies wishing to consult with BME communities.

Azhar Bhatti
Community Engagement Officer

Welcome to **Alliance**, the Newsletter of Camden Black and Ethnic Minority Alliance, an umbrella organisation that aims to

- Collectively represent black and minority ethnics (BME) communities and organisations in Camden at a strategic level.
- Have a strategic and collective lobbying role
- Address the long term sustainability of the sector
- Develop and maintain a robust infrastructure for Camden BME Alliance

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Interview

Azhar Bhatti talks to Brian Dawn of Mind in Camden regarding a partnership tendering process to deliver mental health services in Camden.

Brian, you worked with some of our member organisations on this tender. Can you tell us what the outcome has been?

The consortium (MIND in Camden, Holy Cross Centre Trust and the Volunteer Centre Camden) spoke to many organisations in developing the tender and there has been a very positive response with lots of ideas for joint working generated. There is clearly enormous potential for development. A Mental Health Promotion post will soon be starting and their role will be to follow up on the initial contacts and realise these ideas in practice. They will also be continuing the process of talking to organisations who have expressed an interest in joint working but whom we have not yet contacted.

Can you tell us how you will be working with these organisations?

We have started to publicise our training and volunteering opportunities to BME groups – we are also looking at providing some direct training to staff groups in mental health awareness and discussing ways of providing counselling inreach to organisations to do preventative work, each arrangement is tailored to the needs of individual organisations. We have identified shortfalls in resources, for instance we want to help address the lack of Bangladeshi speaking counsellors. Often the medical model of being either mentally ill or not scares people off so we have been looking at how different models of mental health can be used to enable staff in BME organisations to talk to their clients about mental health issues. We are at a very early stage at the moment, and want to further develop all this work. First and foremost we are interested in hearing what BME organisations think is needed.

What do you think are the benefits of this model of working?

The basic principle around the way we work is that we want to have longer term relationships with groups that start with us talking about needs in their community from their perspective and which result in practical arrangements for joint work.

One thing that people in non - mental health organisations seem to feel is missing is specific individuals in mental health services who they know and who they can contact direct. That's why we have made our mental health promotion post one that focuses on this work.

We think the benefit of this is that it will help to embed BME community work in mental health day services and vice versa, providing a specific path for BME communities to link their work and their communities with mental health services.

What other work would you like to realize in the BME sector around mental health?

It's difficult to answer this question because the BME sector in Camden is very diverse and there are a lot of organisations involved, so it seems to me there is a vast amount of potential for joint work.

An example of the kind of relationships we might develop with one or more BME organisations in the longer term is in the work we have been doing with the Volunteer Centre Camden (VCC).

About two years ago they approached us with the idea of us providing the mental health expertise they needed to make a mental health specific funding application to Capital Volunteering. We agreed that we would provide input to a steering group for the project, add our expertise to the selection and induction process for the worker and provide a venue for the worker to enable people with mental health issues to take up volunteering opportunities. The bid was successful and the success of the project itself led us into including VCC in the consortium that won the tender for day services.

What we learned from this is that we can help non - mental health organisations bid for mental health resources and thereby improve opportunities for people with mental health issues in the borough.

It would be good to extend this kind of longer term joint working to BME projects.

If you wish to discuss any of these issues further then Brian Dawn can be contacted on

Tel: 020 7241 8974

Email: bdawn@mindincamden.org.uk

Resources

Groups Leadership in a Charity

Wednesday 30 January 2008, 6pm
Cass Business School, 106 Bunhill Row,
London EC1Y 8TZ

Speaker: Shami Chakrabarti, Director, Liberty

Leadership in non-profits can be tough! Because charities are strongly cause - related, many staff have high commitment, strong views and want to participate in decision making. How do you gain the benefit of this participation without slowing down decision making unacceptably? How do you take urgent decisions fast without losing staff enthusiasm? How do you persuade Trustees who feel acutely the legal responsibility for final decision making, to accept staff inputs? Shami Chakrabarti, elected by her peers as 2006's most admired CEO will talk about her views on these and other leadership issues.

This is one of a series of Charity Talks organised by the Centre for Charity Effectiveness. Cost: £20

For more information, and to book a place, please visit:

www.centreforcharityeffectiveness.org/Newsletter_feb07/charitytalks_feb07.htm

Legal Advice Sessions

Free legal advice for voluntary or community organisations and social enterprises

Are you a voluntary or community organisation or social enterprise that needs FREE legal advice on an issue regarding your organisation?

Voluntary Action Camden in partnership with LawWorks, and the solicitors firms White&Case and Weil Solicitors will be running monthly surgeries.

Date: 10th Jan 2008. The surgery takes place on Thursdays from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. To book an appointment please write to them at:

T: 020 7284 6564
E: legaladvice@vac.org.uk

Resources

Members/Non members

Camden Cypriot Women's Organisation (CCWO)

Camden Cypriot Women's Organisation has a meeting/training room available for hire at a reasonable price. The capacity is up to 20 people and costs £10 per hour (£80 for one day or £40 for half a day). Refreshments/lunch are optional. CCWO is based in Kentish Town within a few minutes walk from the tube station.

If you are interested in booking this venue, please contact

Koulla Ioannou (manager) on 020 7267 7194

Asian Women's Lone Parent Association (AWLPA)

AWLPA are seeking to recruit new trustees for their management board. AWLPA work with South Asian women who are divorced in order to provide advice support and counselling.

If you are interested please call;

Shaista on 020 7833 8085

Camden Floating Support Service

Are you or anyone you know in need of additional help to live independently in the Camden area?

The service supports people with a range of support needs, and can help with the following issues

- Moving to a new tenancy
- Managing a tenancy
- Applying for benefits
- Tackling social exclusion
- Link in with specialist services

This service accepts referrals from a wide range of sources, including self referrals.

To find out more call;

Tel: 020 7428 4188

E-mail camdensupport@onehousinggroup.co.uk

Resources for BME group's cont...

Camden Working Services for Refugees

If you are 16 years or older and a refugee living in Camden or Islington. Their team of professionals will help you to improve your chances of getting a job and access a range of learning and career opportunities.

The team will provide '**One to one**' information, advice and guidance as well as support with:

- CV Writing
- Completing Job Applications
- Interview Skills and Techniques
- Accessing Job Vacancies & Work Experience
- Accessing other learning and career opportunities

To find out more or book an appointment contact:

Camden Working Services for Refugees:

Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road,
London, NW3 3HA

Tel: 020 7974 5458/5427

Email: Alison.Nichols@vtplc.com /
Sanchia.Brown@vtplc.com

Monitoring & Evaluation Resource Guide

The Charity Evaluation Services website includes over 100 online resources on monitoring and evaluation, which are appropriate for all sizes and type of organisations. Guides include general introductions to monitoring and evaluation, assessing outcomes and impact, participatory appraisal, outcome mapping and social accounting and audit.

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For further information visit – www.ces-vol.org.uk

Certificate in Recycling for Sustainability

Free course in 2007/8, funded by ESF/LDA for Greater London voluntary or private businesses with fewer than 250 staff.

Local Authorities increasingly require providers to have Sustainability Plans, to include reducing environmental footprint, energy efficiency and recycling.

Get a recognised qualification and also a kite mark for your company

The qualification is 40 university credits at Masters Level (Middlesex University); a first degree is not required, but confidence in your study skills is important. 9-12 months of self study (about an hour or two per week).

The programme finishes in May 2008, so enrol now, it's free!

Contact: Susanne Hayward,
CESMB, Middlesex University, Enfield Campus,
Telephone 0208 411 6303

Email: s.hayward@mdx.ac.uk

VAC Community Accountancy Project

The Community Accountancy Project is open to all voluntary and community groups. The project focuses on the following areas:

- Year-end independent examination of accounts for organisations with annual income up to £250 000
- Support in reviewing any aspect of an organisation's financial systems, and making recommendations for change where necessary.
- Help with establishing good financial management and planning
- Ensuring that proper financial procedures are in place, suitable for the organisation and complying with all legal requirements
- VAC deliver financial management training to members of Management Committees of Camden's voluntary and community groups
- VAC also offer a Salary Administration Service

For more information, contact:
Sylvia Okene on 020 7284 6583
E-mail: sokene@vac.org.uk

Training News

Contract and Commissioning for the Voluntary and Community Sector

This recently nationally recognised accreditation at levels 2 & 3, run in collaboration with the Mary Ward Centre is a must-do course for anyone involved in managing in the new commissioning culture.

The course deals with practical application in the workplace. Areas covered include procurement, commissioning, the use of information technology to run contracts, legal structures, marketing strategies when contracting, budgets, staffing issues, legal issues and partnerships.

Please note that some IT skills are required for this course. They may be assessed and tuition given to upgrade before or during the course. The dates are as follows for this academic year 2007/08 at Mary Ward Centre:

Dates 30 January 08, 27 February 08
2 July 08

For more information on the courses running at the Mary Ward Centre, please contact Virginia Gorna at VAC on 07900 883900

Introductory Certificate in Project Management:

This is an intensive entry-level course for people who want skills in project management that could be applied in business or other environments. More information:

Virginia Gorna at VAC on 07900 883900

Effective Communication Skills

In work situations, effective communication can mean the difference between achieving or not achieving your goals. Skills learnt will include active and reflective listening and understanding body language.

Course Dates: 28/29 January 2008

Venue: LVSC

Contact LVSC on learning@lvsc.org.uk

Devising a fundraising strategy

Every good fundraiser has a strategy or plan of action. This one-day course covers the preparation, context and content of a good fundraising strategy. It will provide you with a clearer understanding of what's involved; budgeting, setting targets, making the most of existing resources and how to go

Date: 13 December 2007
venue: LVSC

Contact name: Course Administrator
Email: learning@lvsc.org.uk

New to Fundraising

This course will provide the tools necessary to discover the various sources of funding and to research the funders. It will equip you with the practical skills needed to present and profile your organisation's financial needs to prospective funders.

Aimed at: Anyone new to fundraising is highly recommended to take this introductory course.

For those new to fundraising, we recommend this course before considering the more advanced courses, though this is not always essential: Writing better fundraising applications, or Devising a fundraising strategy

Contact name: Learning Administrator
Email: learning@lvsc.org.uk
Course length: One day
Date: 18 January 2008
venue: LVSC

Writing, editing and designing a newsletter

Newsletters are a valuable communications tool. This two day course provides skills in the basics of writing, proofreading and editing and design and production.

Date: 30/31 January 2008

Venue: LVSC

Contact LVSC on learning@lvsc.org.uk

LVSC Courses Cont:

Full cost recovery

The principle of full cost recovery is to cost your project accurately, including the essential core costs needed to become more sustainable. Full cost recovery is being promoted by the government and many leading funders. This one day course looks at calculating the full cost of a service, including overheads in bids and how to best present your case.

Who for: Anyone preparing budgets/funding bids.

Date:11 January 2008
venue:LVSC

Contact name:Administrator
Email:learningweb@lvsc.org.uk

Strategic planning

Having a formal plan, whether it is called a strategic, business or development plan, is now an indispensable requirement if an organisation is to succeed. This one day course is aimed at groups that are planning to put their first plan together. It will explore how the plan can be used to successfully fundraise for your organisation.

Date:25 January 2008
venue:LVSC

Contact name:Course Administrator
Email:learning@lvsc.org.uk

Advanced supervisory management skills

The course will provide an opportunity to reflect on your practice and to explore more difficult or complex situations. It will also look at the impact of different leadership styles and motivation of staff.

Who for: This course is for people with experience in providing supervision or who have previously undertaken training.

Date:16/17 January 2008
venue:LVSC

Email:learning@lvsc.org.uk
Course length:Two days

Funding News

Trust House Charitable Trust

The Trust considers applications concerned with areas of deprivation. For example, in projects addressing life and employment skills, projects for the elderly (around loneliness and isolation). Other projects focus on physical and mental disability and carer's support will also be considered. The deadline is ongoing.

For more information contact

Richard Hopgood. Trust House Charitable Foundation, 6th Floor. 65 Leadenhall Street. London. EC3A 2AD
www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk

Big Lottery Programmes

Reaching Communities Fund

Reaching Communities will give grants of more than £10,000 and up to £500,000, including a maximum of £50,000 for capital grants. They will fund projects for up to five years, which address the following outcomes:

- People have a better chance in life, including access to training in order to improve skills.
- Strong communities with more active citizens and working together to tackle their problems.
- Improved rural and urban environments
- Healthier and more active communities.

If you have any queries about this programme, please contact the BIG Advice Line on **0845 4 10 20 30** where you can also obtain an application pack and guidance notes. Or visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Advice Plus

Advice Plus aims to help people in need access good quality advice on their legal rights and responsibilities, so that they can avoid and/or overcome disadvantage.

Round two will fund third sector legal advice services that collaborate with other advice services in their local area.

For more information log onto;

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/advisplus

New Improving Reach Programme 2008-11: Now open for application

Improving Reach is focusing additional resources to extend and improve sector support services available to those frontline organisations dedicated to working in and with excluded communities

This programme offers three-year grants, and the fund expects to approximately award £6million a year. One of the aims of the fund is to improve the effectiveness of specialised support services and strengthen the (often small) organisations that provide them.

The rationale behind this is that smaller organisations have more skills and resources to provide services to third sector frontline organisations which work with excluded communities as well as being able to carry on once funding has run out.

The Improving Reach programme 2008-11 wants to develop stronger organisations that are able to provide high quality support for frontline organisations in the long term.

It is strongly recommended that applicants read the guidelines before applying. Applications will only be accepted through their website.

The closing date is Monday the 28th January 2008
To find out more log onto

<http://capacitybuilders.org.uk>

Camden BME Alliance

FUND RAISING SURGERIES AT CAMDEN BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC ALLIANCE

CBMEA working with Voluntary Action Camden is providing monthly fund raising surgeries at our offices, with the first surgery on:

Date: Thursday 10th January 2008

Time: 10 am to 4 pm

**Venue: CBMEA Offices, 44 Hampstead Road,
London NW1**

**To book your place, please contact:
Azhar Bhatti on 020 7388 6030**

Health Matters in Camden

Camden Primary Care Trust (PCT) has trained Community Nutrition Assistants (CNAs) who are ready to deliver COOK & EAT programmes in a range of organisations and groups.

Cook and eat programmes are informal practical cooking courses embedded with healthy eating guidelines and budgeting information for community participants who would benefit from the skills and knowledge offered. Courses run for 4-6 weeks depending on the desired course contents and the needs of the participants.

The aims

- To learn healthy eating and lifestyle options
- Learn about the benefits of fruit and vegetable intake, reduce salt intake and increase awareness of saturated fats and sugars.
- Learn about food labelling and processed foods
- Develop confidence in cooking
- To establish basic cookery skills and try out a range of different recipes using a variety of foods.

Benefits

- Change in food behaviour contributing to better health status
- Skills and knowledge can be taken back to friends and family
- Certificate of attendance awarded at the end of the course
- An enjoyable way to learn healthy eating and can be relaxing for parents spending time away from children.

Highgate Newton Community Centre is co-ordinating Cook & Eat programmes in the community.

If you would like further information about the programmes in the future please call Jane Evans on

020 7263 6148, e-mail: janecc@hotmail.co.uk

For courses programmed through the PCT please call Janita Golding at the PCT on 020 7530 5353 or

E-mail Janita.golding@camdenpct.nhs.uk

Member Profile

Camden Chinese Community Centre

Background history

Established in 1981, the Camden Chinese Community Centre is currently located on Tavistock Place.

Our major revenue funders are Social Services, Voluntary Sector Unit (Camden Council) and Nursery Education.

We deliver the following projects:

- Elderly Programme (for promotion of social, nutritional and health welfare);
- Needs Assessment and Advocacy (in cooperation with social services and health authorities);
- Housebound Project (for domiciliary care of Chinese elderly and disabled);
- Advisory services (on welfare benefits, immigration, housing, domestic violence etc);
- the Bilingual Nursery Programme (preschool education of children under 5, the only one of its kind in London);
- the Youth and Millennium Volunteer programme and Community Development including work with Women's and Voluntary groups.

Additionally we offer a wide range of community activities and house regular mini-surgeries by local opticians, dentists and healthcare practitioners.

Our daily luncheon club for the Elderly serves at least 30 diners per day and overall the Centre serves 30,000 user visits per year averaging 600 visits per week.

Our aim is to enable local people to access activities and services by providing a native language link between the vulnerable people and statutory service providers. We have over 1300 members of whom the majority are mainly older people, women, immigrants, preschool children and young people.

Our funders recognise the quality and need for our services and have actively encouraged our growth, as we are the only ethnic organisation that provides such a range of services. Our new Centre will enable us to continue to provide quality services for the community.

Future Plans

To focus on growing organically through nurturing our core activities and developing our emerging business of social care.

The strategy recognizes that building on the organisation's strengths and expanding services that face growing demand, such as the services to elderly people, is in keeping with both the organisation's purpose and its position as a successful niche business.

- To continue working primarily with the Chinese community and to extend our operational area further into the north and north-west London.
- The process will be one of incremental change that recognizes we are still a relatively small organisation and, although we shall continue to welcome people of all ethnic origins and want to engage with the local community, we wish our organisation to maintain its Chinese identity.
- To recognize that we need to diversify our sources of income and strengthen partnership working, particularly in the north London boroughs.
- Within this we will continue to maintain our identity and shall continue with our current governance arrangements but keep them under review in case it becomes appropriate to establish a separate social enterprise as our social care activities grow.

For more details and information about the centre please contact Joseph Ho on the following details provided below

9 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SN
Tel: 0207 388 8883
Fax: 020 7383 2886
E-mail: info@camdenccc.co.uk

Consultations

Have your say in how local health and social care services are planned and delivered

The Department of Health is consulting on the Regulations for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which will replace Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIs) from April 2008.

What is a LINK? – LINK will be a network of local people and organisations who are funded to supported to work with local communities to identify any issues or concerns they may have about local health and social care. They will then represent these views and hold publicly funded care services to account. There will be a LINK in every local authority.

The Bill requires each local authority:

- To contract an organisation which will set up and support each LINK.
- It sets out a number of core activities, including promoting and supporting local involvement in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of health and social care services, monitoring and reviewing the services, gathering the needs and views of local communities and representing these to planners and providers of services.
- Gives the Secretary of State a power to make regulations imposing duties on commissioners and certain providers of health and social care services.

For further information visit

www.dh.gov.uk/PatientPublicInvolvement

Closing date- 21st December 2007

(Source – Department of Health Briefing Note (September 2007))

Consultation on Community strategies, local area agreements, performance indicators

Draft guidance to local authorities and their partners on creating strong safe and prosperous communities, in connection with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 is out for consultation. It covers Local Strategic Partnerships, Sustainable Community Strategies, the new duty to involve, Local Area Agreements, the revised best value regime and commissioning.

Responses by 12th February.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/statutoryguidance>.

Consultation on “An Action Plan for Community Empowerment: Building on success.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), in partnership with the Local Government Association has produced this Action Plan, which sets out the steps it is taking, working across government and other partners towards three key outcomes:

- Greater participation and engagement in democracy.
- Changes in attitudes towards community empowerment.
- Improved public services and the quality of life.

It sets out 23 actions and questions on which people are invited to comment under the following areas:

- Widening and deepening empowerment opportunities locally.
- Supporting and enabling people to take up empowerment opportunities.
- Strengthening local representative democracy.

There are a series of questions on which people are invited to comment.

Closing date for the consultation is 19 January 2008.

Email comments/responses to CommunityEmpowerment@communities.gov.uk

Further information at www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityempowerment/actionplan

If you are responding it would be useful for the Urban Forum to have a copy of your comments to inform their discussions with CLG – info@urbanforum.org.uk

(Source: Urban Forum Policy Briefing – October 2007)

News- Camden BME Alliance

Monica Olusola Departs

Monica Olusola left Camden BME Alliance in August of this year. Monica had served as director since 2005 and worked on at strategic level partnerships, such as the LAA steering group, Equalities Stakeholders Group and Community Empowerment Network. During her time here, Monica raised the strategic role of the Alliance and that of the BME sector in Camden. We wish her the best of luck in whatever she does in the future.

New Interim Director

With Monica's departure, the new Interim Director, Anju Bhatt joined in September of this year. Anju has worked in the voluntary sector for many years and also has experience of working in Camden. Anju works two days a week (usually Wednesdays and Thursdays)

CBMEA AGM Notification

CBMEA will be holding its AGM on the 28th February 2008. 1-4pm. To confirm your attendance please call Azhar Bhatti on 020 7388 6030

Fund Raising Support

Following the results of our annual survey 2006, CBMEA with Voluntary Action Camden, is piloting fund raising support surgeries, from January 2008. For further details, please see section on Resources for BME groups (page 7) of this issue.

Volunteering Support Project

CBMEA is starting a volunteering project in partnership with Camden Volunteer Centre. Volunteers are a key part of any voluntary and community organisation and provide vital support. The aims are to build capacity in Camden's BME sector and strengthen individual organisations. We are hoping to recruit volunteers from our member organisations to be trained for volunteering as well as placing trained or expert volunteers with some of our member organisations. If you have any volunteering needs, please contact CBMEA - contact details as below.

Azhar Bhatti
Community Engagement officer
Tel: 020 7388 6030
E-mail: communityofficer@cbmea.org.uk

Third Party Reporting Project Update November 2007

As you are all aware since May 2007 the Third Party Reporting Project (TPR) has been housed at the Camden BME Alliance. There are now 34 reporting sites across the London Borough of Camden with more planned. The project was previously restricted to the Neighbourhood Renewal areas but has now gone Camden wide.

The majority of TPR cases come from the Somali community and National Car Parks (NCP) bases which is largely due to the dedication of John Kilvington from the Kingsgate Centre and the NCP staff. I still believe the vast majority of Race Hate crimes are not being reported in Camden which is evidenced by the report produced by the Camden Police Consultative Group on Race Hate crime. The main reason for this seems to be an acceptance of being a victim of Race Hate crime as culturally entrenched and deemed part and parcel of life for some Camden residents. Third Party Reporting aims to challenge this.

The partnership with the Camden Community Safety Unit is also proving to be successful not only with casework but with developing new ventures, such as the TPR Coordinator supporting victims of Race Hate crime with the police in the Hate Crime Car .

Other challenges include certain TPR sites not submitting any reports due in most cases to staff retention. One way I hope to rectify this is to train "community members" as Third Party Reporters in this instance, youth workers, who work and reside in Camden and are known in their local communities. We are also embarking on a project to encourage mini cab drivers to report Race Hate crime which is a partnership TPR Project, the Police and Camden Community Safety Team. Again Race Hate crime amongst mini cab drivers goes virtually unreported particularly by mini cab drivers from BME Communities.

The Project includes reporting tension monitoring using an informal multi agency platform which involves local youth workers, the Police and the Community Safety teams. Tension monitoring is key in preventing gang fighting between young people – this prevents incidents spiralling out of control and provides an early opportunity to work with young people to defuse the conflict.

Farrukh Rahman
Third Party Reporting Coordinator

Investing in Camden's homes

Cathy Norris reports from Camden Councils Housing Renewal Department reports back on some of the work with BME communities

At Camden Council, one of our top priorities is getting all our council homes up to the decent homes standard, as required by government. Despite continued lobbying, the government has not given us the additional funding we need to invest in housing, leaving us with a £242 million shortfall.

As you know, we have been consulting widely on our plans which look at ways to make sure that all of our tenants have a decent home to live in. In partnership with Camden BMEA, our consultation included workshops and focus groups with a number of groups including the Cypriot Women's Centre; the Bengali Workers Association; the London Irish Centre; Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre; the Somali Community Centre and the Chinese Community Centre. We would like to thank all those individuals that participated in the consultation, all the groups that got involved and the Camden BMEA for their support in organising these sessions.

We are now analysing the feedback from all consultation meetings and events together with the results from a questionnaire sent to all tenants and leaseholders in the borough. We will be publishing a summary of the consultation feedback in December.

We will of course update the Camden BMEA and all organisations participating our consultation process on the findings of the consultation and let you know about progress regarding our plans to invest in Camden's homes.

To find out more about investing in Camden's homes visit www.camden.gov.uk/housing.

Older People's Consultation Action Group

Age Concern Camden is setting up a new Consultation Action Group, to consist of 25 people, comprising older people, carers, volunteers and paid workers. At least 17 people will be over 60 years of age and at least 5 people will represent older people from black and minority ethnic communities. The Group aims to address and campaign on:

- Local and national issues affecting the quality of life of older people, e.g. health and social care, education, housing, age discrimination and poverty.
- Help to identify best practice and gaps in services for older people.
- Make recommendations to Age Concern Camden's Board on policy and campaigning issues.
- Members to represent Age Concern Camden on other voluntary organisation management committees.

For further information contact:

Corrina Hyman at Age Concern Camden on tel. no. 020 7837 3777 or via email on c.hyman@ageconcerncamden.org.uk

Café one Kx

Buffet Catering Service from a new social enterprise

- Full event catering service
- Buffet menus tailored to your needs
- All diets catered for
- Daily range of fresh, healthy products
- Quality ingredients
- Fair Trade & locally sourced products
- Training & jobs for local people

Give them a call if you have catering requirements for your event, as well as to enquire about their range of other community services

120 Cromer Street, WC1H 8BS
Tel: 07967 243 571

Camden BME Alliance- Services

Electronic Mailing List

The Alliance has an electronic mailing list, which is designed to keep you informed on current issues. The mailing list is a useful way to exchange information, views, and ideas with other BME organisations locally.

Resource Room

We also have a resource room at the disposal of members equipped with a small library of literature on issues relevant to BME communities and organisations. Two computers with internet access, professional desktop publishing facilities.

CBMEA would also like to know how members would most benefit from the resource room. Which other tools and resources would members find most useful.

To give us your views or to book an appointment please call the admin officer at CBMEA on the following number.

020 7388 6030

Join Camden BME Alliance

Full Membership criteria

To qualify as a full member your organisation needs to meet the following criteria;

- Formally constituted with charitable aims
- 51% or more of the management committee members from BME communities.
- The primary target group is BME communities
- Based in and delivering services to BME communities in Camden.

Associate Membership criteria;

- Based in Camden
- Delivers services and works with the BME communities in any capacity

To request an application form contact Camden BME Alliance on

44 Hampstead Road
London NW1 2PY
Tel: 020 7388 6030
Fax: 020 7388 6040
E-mail: director@cbmea.org.uk

Company limited by guarantee No 4790738
Charity Registration No 1101643

Camden BME Alliance Members

African Caribbean elders – Asian Women Lone Parents Association – Bangladeshi Mohila Shomi – Bengali Women's Health Project – Bengali Workers Association – British Somali Community – Camden Black Parents and Teachers Association – Camden Chinese Community Centre – Camden Cypriots Women's Organisation – Centre For Filipinos – Community of Congolese Students in the UK – Ethiopian Community in Britain – Ethiopian Health Support Network – Henna Asian Women's Group – Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre – Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association – London Irish Centre – Pan African Housing Co-op – Somali Community Centre – Zimbabwe Community Association –

Associate Members

Age Concern Camden – Artsline Cultural diversity Project – Camden CAB Service – Camden Carers Centre – Camden Crossroads – Camden Health and Race Group – Camden LEA Governor Support Network – Camden Refugee Network – Camden Victim Support – Diabetes UK – Holocaust Educational Trust – Institute of Race Relations – Working Men's College -