



Members

Charter

January - December 2007

'CBMEA Moving Forward'

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As Director, I am especially pleased to oversee the first ever publication of Camden BME Alliances (CBMEAs) Members Charter. The development of this Charter has been an extremely rewarding experience and underlines the fact that CBMEA is committed to providing the best quality support and service to our many members. It also underlines the fact that CBMEA is an innovative and far sighted organisation that is moving forward. Taken together, we welcome the opportunity to further restate our ambitions and intentions in this publication.

For an organisation, such as ours, a member's charter is important because it is an important accountability tool and safeguard of standards. Members will therefore see

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that, within this publication, CBMEA has set out our 'members guarantee.' This ensures that you, as members, know what to expect from us.

In addition, to setting out the expectations our members should have of us, we also think it is right to set out what CBMEA expects of its members as well. Therefore the Charter highlights some very basic expectations of CBMEA membership.

CBMEAs Members Charter should be seen as one of our flagship publications. This is because, through this document, we want to clearly define CBMEA membership as something that adds value. Therefore, further on in this publication, we provide useful background information about our work and take the opportunity to refer members to our stable of publications. We have also included specific advice for those who would like to become members of CBMEA. Furthermore, as CBMEA Director, I hope that you enjoy reading this publication and find it both informative and practical.

Yours sincerely

Monica Olusola
CBMEA Director

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Profile of CBMEA

CBMEA is BME-led voluntary organisation. The Alliance was launched in 2002 and operates across the borough of Camden. CBMEA is an umbrella body, and our membership is predominately made up of other BME-led voluntary and community organisations. However, we embrace membership from a variety of organisations and groups, as long as they are based in Camden and working with BME communities in any capacity.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of CBMEA are as follows:

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

As a strategic organisation CBMEA does not provide frontline services itself. Instead our role is to help develop the capacity of frontline service providers and other strategic organisations operating in the borough of Camden. As part of this, CBMEA undertakes research in major policy areas and disseminates this information through a wide range of user friendly publications. We also facilitate events and seminars on various topical and 'live' issues. Meanwhile, through our knowledge management capacity, we are able to facilitate learning and promote good practice across our membership.

CBMEAs work brings us in contact with a wide range of organisations, across the statutory, public and voluntary sectors. Through these contacts, we seek to establish networks of influence that will enable us to make an effective contribution towards the overarching ambitions in Camden's Community Strategy.

Policy focus

In policy and strategic terms CBMEA focuses predominately on the equalities and social cohesion agendas. Through our work, we seek to narrow the gap between the most deprived BME communities, in Camden, and the better off. In addition, we also seek to reach the least accessible in the borough and build relationships within and between communities.

Membership guarantee

The membership guarantee sets out what CBMEA seeks to do on behalf of its memberships. The guarantee covers ten areas, which are set out in the annexe below.

- Advocacy**, we will represent the legitimate and best interests of our members both within the Alliance and externally
- Confidentiality**, we will respect member confidentiality (whilst, at the same time, acting in accordance with our obligations under the law)
- Consultation and engagement**, we will actively seek the views and opinions of members in deciding the best course of action for the Alliance
- Customer care**, we will respond to any member concerns or complaints in a sensitive and timely manner
- Equity and fairness**, we will support the legitimate interests of all our members in a transparent and impartial way and promote equality of access to all our services
- Information**, we will do all we can to ensure that any information disseminated to members is accurate and up to date
- Learning and review**, we will constantly review and evaluate our activities and explore new ways to increase the quality of our services
- Membership growth**, we will encourage new members to join the Alliance and promote the sharing of skills and expertise for the benefit of all
- Value for money**, we will manage our resources efficiently whilst, at the same time, seek to increase the quality of outcomes
- Working in partnership**, we will seek to establish new strategic links with other providers and agencies, so that we can lobby more effectively on behalf of our members

Membership benefits

Membership of CBMEA ensures entitlement to a wide range of benefits. Some of these are described in the annexe below.

- Access** to current research and analysis to help members prepare funding bids and develop new initiatives
- Access** to a wide range of high quality publications, which cover issues of interest to the BME voluntary and community sector
- Increased** public profile through membership
- Invitations** to a wide range of seminars and events covering various issues of interest to BME voluntary and community organisations
- Opportunities** to shape the focus of CBMEA's programme of activities through feeding back views and opinions in response to consultation
- Opportunities** to **participate** in new initiatives and projects that CBMEA is developing
- Opportunities** to meet other members and develop new strategic and operational partnerships
- Opportunities** to advertise in various CBMEA publications which are read across Camden and beyond
- Opportunities to influence** local policy making through the lobbying and campaigning undertaken, by CBMEA, on behalf of our members
- Specialist advice** on various policy issues affecting BME voluntary and community organisations
- Sign-posting** to a wide range of external information sources
- Use** of ICT facilities and meeting rooms in our fully equipped resource centre in Camden
- Written references**, for members who are known and have actively contributed to the development of the Alliance

Expectations of members

CBMEA has basic and reasonable expectations of its membership. These are described in the annexe below.

- Active support** - members should do all they can to support Alliance activities, and initiatives (attend scheduled events and respond to consultation)
- Promoting the alliance externally** - members are expected to do all they can to raise the profile of the Alliance at externally organised events
- New membership** - members are expected to support efforts to attract new members into the Alliance
- Conduct** - it is expected that members will not do anything likely to harm the reputation of the Alliance
- Service development** - members are expected to contribute ideas and suggestions towards the development of services provided by the Alliance
- Equalities** - members are expected to treat other members fairly and with dignity and respect
- Confidentiality** - members are expected to respect the confidentiality of the Alliance (whilst, at the same time, acting in accordance with their obligations under the law)
- Seeking references** - members are expected to give reasonable notice, of at least one working week, if seeking a reference from the Alliance (this will enable any requests to be considered by the Management Board)
- Concerns and complaints** - member are expected to allow at least one working week for responses to concerns raised or complaints lodged by them

CMBEA publications

CBMEA seeks to keep our members constantly informed by producing a wide range of quality publications. Amongst these include:

alliance

Alliance is CBMEA's quarterly newsletter. The publication seeks to cover a wide range of topics, which are of interests to the BME community. It also updates members on what is actually happening within the Alliance itself.

POLICYPROFILE

'Policy Profile' is CBMEA's policy news brief. It looks at cutting edge policy issues in detail and in particular seeks to analyse them from a BME perspective. First published in September 2005, 'Policy Profile' has already taken an in-depth look at the Government's local area agreement initiative.

SPEAK!

'Speak' provides social commentary. Styled as an opinion piece, it takes a bystanders look at a wide range of topical issues of interest to BME communities.

Camden BME Alliance

PROFILE

The 'CBMEA Profile' is a strategic publication, which provides a unique insight into our work and that of our many members. Included in this publication are various strategic maps, which draw clear links between CBMEA's work and that of the Community Strategy. The Profile also includes a membership directory.

Looking OUT!

'Looking OUT!' is the voice on communities and social cohesion issues. Included in the scope of this publication are major policy agendas such as Camden's Community Strategy and local area agreement. 'Looking OUT!' also covers other community issues happening outside the borough, but which might be of interest to Camden people.

Local Area Agreement

JARGON BUSTER

CBMEA has undertaken a wide range of activities to increase our members understanding of local area agreement - including the publication of a jargon buster. This publication, which has also been used by Camden Council, uses plain English to explain some of the terms and expressions commonly associated with local area agreement.

Joining CBMEA

To become a **full** member of CBMEA you will need to meet all of the following criteria:

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

To become an **associate** member, your organisation will need to meet the following criteria:

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

To request an **application form** contact the address below:

44 Hampstead Road
London NW1 2PY

Tel: 020 7388 6030
Fax: 020 7388 6040

Email: info@cbmea.org.uk
Website: www.camdenbmealliance.org.uk

Contacting us



Camden Black and Minority Ethnic Alliance
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Tel: 020 7388 6030
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