

Minutes



Minutes of BME forum meeting held on 8th July 2009 Boardroom, Hounds Gate

Present: Jackie Brown (JB), Ade Aderogba MBE (AA), Arabella Smith (ASm), Jacinth Hall (JH), Kalwant Kandola (KK), Cynthia James (CJ), T Anderson (TA), Carole Donnelly – NCH (CD), Amanda Schofield – NCH (ASc), Kelly John-Baptiste (KB), Elsa Tesfamariam (ET), Halivia Wilkes (HW), Andrew Filer – NCH (AF), Ingrid Robert-Davies (ID), Ruth Davis (RD), Livingstone Fagan (LF), Serena Lee (SL), Linford Stevens (LS)

1 **Welcome and introductions**

Apologies from Mr Anderson, Mrs Anderson, Beverley Archer, Masaud Subedar (NCC), Chris Langstaff (NCH)

CJ welcomed several new members who had come along to the meeting and thanked AF for the mail shot asking for further volunteers to come along

2 **Minutes from last meeting**

AF confirmed he would send out an up-to-date meeting timetable with the minutes from this meeting

CJ wanted to extend no hard feelings to Simon Temporal following the last meeting. ASc confirmed the need for a pre-meet with the Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure that NCH and the group have a proper brief so each understands what information is requested

CD confirmed the budget breakdown for the forum, with an amount of £2000 for the year to cover the costs of the group. This is to be used for travel expenses, cost of refreshments, childcare and carer costs, and any other activity the group wish to do. The budgets were set-up like this, this year as NCH had previously been asked to show a breakdown of what forums and panels spend. This information will be publicised quarterly to the forum and on the website.

AF

CD confirmed that the issue with Trent Cars has been dealt with. All Trent Car employees are now receiving Equality & Diversity training, with a new protocol in place to ensure this does not happen again. The driver in question will no longer be used for the NCH account.

Minutes were signed off as a true representation of the meeting

3 Forward Plan item - Mental Health

AF stated that this item would be more suitable to be discussed at the NCC meeting. The Homes 4 Us Forum are also looking at this issue, so suggested the two Chairs and Vice Chairs meet to ensure there is no duplication of work

AF handed out a short update on the work Sue Lomax has been doing in partnership with NCC on this issue

AF confirmed Mental Health issues of tenants can be picked up at several times through a tenancy from the tenants application form through to bi-annual tenancy visits, but some cases do get missed. When an issue is found, all support referrals are sent to Framework for processing and assigning to a support worker dependant on the issues

KK expressed a concern that Framework were chosen to run the gateway. This started a discussion on this topic. AA backed up KKs views and shared his view that he was unsure of the knowledge Framework have of specific BME Mental Health issues, also advising that Azuka – an award winning BME specialist Mental Health organisation is now defunct

It was decided by the group for this to be brought up at an NCC meeting to take issues forward. ASc advised to possibly get all support providers together to ensure issues are resolved

4 BME Forum leaflet

AF distributed the updated leaflet that has been produced with input from CJ. This new leaflet will be taken to future events to promote the BME Forum. AF also advised that other forums now want a leaflet themselves

5 Caribbean Carnival feedback

AF gave a handout with a short update on the Carnival, help was also sought from the BME Forum to start planning earlier for next years event. A discussion then took place on the poor marketing and organisation of this years event, with it being suggested a letter is drafted to the organisers

6 **Review of forward plan**

CJ led the discussion on this to dissect the forward plan to ensure there is no duplication between the NCH and NCC meetings

It was agreed that the September meeting would focus on Repairs and the Voids / Lettings process. AF to invite Gary Whitaker / Chris Raynor and Bernadette Lawley to present on these issues following a discussion with CJ and JH on what issues are required. The November meeting will look at Racial harassment, hate crime and anti-social behaviour. AF to invite Kim De Vergori / Kathy Mason and partner organisations to present on these issues following a discussion with CJ and JH on what issues are required

7 **Any other business**

KK raised the issue whether a full buffet was required at meetings as it was very costly. The group agreed biscuits and a fruit basket would be provided at future meetings

CD advised that the Tenant & Leaseholder Resource Centre is starting to have a phased opening, so asked for members of the group to come in to see what facilities are available

CJ raised the issue of the lack of diversity on the NCH Board, and the resultant issues with the funding of the Caribbean Carnival. AA clarified that it was a business decision not to fund the carnival, as NCH could not be seen to favour a particular group and were unable to fund other events such as Nottingham Mela. ASc confirmed that the Board are there to ensure the Housing Revenue Account money is spent wisely as it is tenant and leaseholders money. A general discussion then took place on the Board make-up. CJ attends the Tenant & Leaseholder Congress meetings where Board members also attend, so CJ can pass information between forums as necessary

KB thanked AF for sending out the information on the BME Forum, and expressed her gratitude for all the help and support she has received from NCH since becoming a tenant.

CJ thanks everyone for attending, raising issues and for giving their points of view.

The next NCH meeting is to be held:

**Wednesday 9th September,
6.00 – 8.30pm,
Hounds gate Boardroom**