

Minutes



Minutes of BME forum meeting held on 12th May 2010 @ Boardroom, Houndsgate

Present: Cynthia James, Jacinth Hall (JH), , Ade Aderogba MBE (AA), Asha Kalia (AK), T Anderson (TA), A Smith (AS), Afzaal Nawaz – NCH (AN), Linford Stevens (LS), Constance Hall – NCH (CH), Randolph Richardson (RR), Kalwant Kandola (KK), Halivia Wilkes, Jackie Brown (JB), Raje Kaur (RK), (HW), Carole Donnelly – NCH (CD) Gary Rackstraw – NCH (GR), Andrew Riley – NCH (AR), Cherry Edgeworth – NCH (CE)

1 Welcome and introductions

Apologies from Mr Baptiste, Burnett Anderson, Ethel Anderson, Jenny Grant, Mr Johnson, Amanda Schofield (NCH), Janet Glass (NCH), Gill Moy (NCH), Chris Langstaff (NCH)

2 Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting

Minutes were signed off as a true representation of the meeting.

3 Ethnic Minority Employees Forum (EME) – Andrew Riley

AR introduced himself as the chairperson of EME Forum and also Rents Accounts Manager.

AR advised the EME Forum was started by the company by the previous Chief Executive David Hucker. The current Chief Executive has endorsed the EME Forum.

4 Equality & Diversity – Constance Hall

CH thanked members for their input on the diversity newsletter. Chair person has said it was one of the best to date.

CH advised two of issues regarding newsletter:

- Cynthia was not the first chairperson of the BME forum, it was Mr Anderson. CH to make apology and correction.
- At editorial meeting decided to include photo of CJ and JG to represent BME forum and Homes 4 us. Then decided to include Clive's photo because Cynthia's photo was included and also as a boost for Clive. The article clearly stated the comments were made by JG. CH to attend next editorial meeting.

CH

CH advised NCH are having Diversity Week to help increase collection rate of diversity monitoring forms.

A panel member asked if the monitoring information collected would be secure.

CH advised had received assurances from IT systems department that it is safe and that staff have had data protection training.

A panel member asked what support tenants are getting to complete monitoring forms.

CH stated working closely with tenancy estate management and property services staff to do some door knocking to help tenants complete the forms. There is a resource issue with housing staff at the moment and will be meeting with Kim De Vergori to discuss further.

GR advised will give tenants other options to complete the forms during the diversity week. Will need to reach out to tenants by going to community organisations etc. There will also be an insert in the next newsletter.

5 Any Other Business

CH advised E&D team were starting their review during May 2010.

CH advised Vincent Bryce will be working CH and GR to help progress equality & diversity work further.

6 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 12th May 2010 6.00 – 8.30pm Boardroom, 14 Hounds Gate