



Consortia of Ethnic Minority Organisations

MISSION STATEMENT

“To lead on establishing a strong and viable BME voluntary sector within the district of Bradford which leads to equitable outcomes for all communities”

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

It seems that for the past few years I have always introduced the Annual Report highlighting the work COEMO has done as being exceptional and improving year on year. The truth is that the work of COEMO cannot be described in any other way. COEMO is a nationally recognised ISO, working in partnership with many other groups and takes a lead in many high profile projects.

Our membership remains diverse, representing all ethnic minority groups equally, and empowering them to support integration and cohesive communities throughout the District. Following the years of hard work to build a solid base, the results are there for all to see – a strong, well supported BME sector within the District and a business model that is being replicated in other parts of the country.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to sincerely thank all of our partners and members for their on-going support, commitment and encouragement. I would also like to thank all our staff, who continue to make us proud with their enthusiasm, commitment and the sheer willingness to assist organisations to the best of their ability. Their contribution is recognised and appreciated.

Imran Khan

ABOUT COEMO

BACKGROUND

In the Bradford district the BME sector is fairly sizeable, but, unfortunately, it is too fragmented to secure any lasting improvements to the quality of life of ethnic minority communities.

WHO ARE WE?

COEMO is an umbrella organisation and was formed in October 2000 by a number of community organisations from the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector who felt that a representative umbrella body was now crucial if the black and ethnic minority sector was to survive and develop in a climate, which required an increasing amount of collective collaboration.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We raise the profile of BME organisations
- We provide Infrastructure support to BME front line organisations
- We organise networking & consultation events
- We undertake research activities within BME sector
- We act as an advocate for BME Voluntary sector and the wider community with local government, central government and other relevant institutions
- We represent the ethnic minority voluntary sector on partnerships and decision-making bodies at local, regional and national level.

WHO DO WE REPRESENT?

We are currently representing views and aspirations of over 200 organisations involving the following communities:

- South Asian Communities
- African Communities
- African-Caribbean Communities
- Filipino Communities
- Asylum seeker & Refugees
- East European Communities

HOW DO WE OPERATE?

The organisation has a constitution and is registered as a company limited by guarantee with a charitable status (Charity Number 1124251). The management of the organisation is based on membership who annually elects a management Board. Our services are open to all BME voluntary & community sector. We have an office and paid staff.

WHO CAN BECOME MEMBER?

Any BME voluntary and community sector organisations can become member of COEMO. Please ask for an application form or visit our website.

BRADFORD & BME COMMUNITY

- Bradford population : approx 480,000
- 22% of Bradford populations are from ethnic minority
- Over 200 BME organisations in Bradford & District (*some are small with no base & staff, some are medium with base & staff and some are large as social enterprise*)
- Over 150 Mosques, Gurduaras & Temples
- Majority of BME populations are < 25 years of age
- Highest BME population growth in the region
- Growing BME 60+ Older People
- Growing BME school population
- >20% BME children leave school with no qualifications
- BME unemployment rate exceed Bradford & National average

ACHIEVEMENTS

Support to Front Line Organisations

Coemo was very pleased to commence 2008 with the launch of an eventful BASIS Project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the commencement of Capacity Builders Improving Reach Programme. The Improving Reach project is a follow on from the highly successful fifteen month pilot that Coemo delivered in 2007 to March 2008. The current Improving Reach project is being delivered in partnership with COEMO's cross district counterparts; Voluntary Action Calderdale, Kirklees Ethnic Minority Alliance, Leeds Connecting Communities and Voluntary Action Wakefield.

The main aim of both projects has been to provide a much needed service to ensure frontline organisations have the necessary support and skills to help them develop their capacity, improve their service provision and long term sustainability. Training programmes and workshops have centred on a variety of needs including Management Committee development, Project Outcomes and Outputs, Sources of Funding, Policies and Procedures, Basic Budgeting, and Quality Systems.



PQASSO Quality System Workshop

As a result of these activities Coemo has:

- Directly supported 80 frontline BME organisations.
- Delivered 7 training/workshops to frontline organisations.
- Provided intensive management committee support to 9 organisations benefiting 64 people.
- Held 3 networking events attended by 53 organisations benefiting 73 people.
- 7 groups are being supported towards the implementation of quality systems.
- Helped to submit funding applications for front line organisations in excess of £75k. Some of these applications are awaiting decisions whilst £25k has already been secured.

Partnership Development Programme

The Bradford BME communities are no different to the generic voluntary and community sector. Like other segments of the sector BME voluntary and community organisations are finding the unambiguous funding climate extremely difficult, many are losing staff, some are losing key projects and others are having to relocate to save on running costs.

In August 2008, Coemo pioneered a unique and fruitful networking opportunity, targeting BME community groups who are keen to explore the potential of working in partnership and developing consortia projects which are more likely to be successful. Coemo created an opportunity for the BME organisations to come together and discuss and debate how their organisations work, how they wish to work in the future, and how, if possible, Coemo could be used to facilitate any partnership working.

More recently, we have secured some financial support from WYLDA to take this further. We have engaged a free lance consultant to facilitate this process. Grange Interlink Community Center, Thorpe Edge Community Center, West Bowling Community Center, Bangladesh Community Cohesion Forum, Bangladesh Community Association BD3, The Peacemakers, Kala Sangam, and Millan Centre along with the Bradford Council are currently working together to prepare a bid to deliver range of activities to prevent extremism issues.

For the last two years we also deliver a range of strategic and specialist activities under the BISON partnership programme funded by the Council. This partnership work involves working with Bradford CVS, Keighly CVS, Equity Partnership, Bradford Resource centre and West Yorkshire community accountancy service.

Fundraising Network

Coemo has delivered a number of workshops with members of the Fundraising Network. The latest workshop held on 10th Feb 09, was very well attended, with 12 people attending from 10 different organisations.



Strategic, Advocacy & Representational Activities

COEMO has a voice on

- Bradford Council (Steering group member of third sector review – now third sector Implementation group, Member Equality Forum, Member stronger communities partnership)
- Bradford Community Empowerment Network (C-Net)
- Infrastructure Support Organisations (ISO Group)
- Yorkshire & Humber Regional Forum
- West Yorkshire Local Development Agency (WYLDA)
- LSC - District's Learning Partnership – (NLDC)
- BME Learning Network (sub-regional)
- National Association of Voluntary Action (NAVCA)

West Yorkshire Sub Regional BME Network Activities

This is a West Yorkshire Sub Regional BME project consisting of five districts, Bradford, Leeds, Kirklees, Calderdale and Wakefield. Delivery partners in each of the 5 districts are COEMO; Leeds Connecting Communities, Kirklees Ethnic Minority Alliance, Calderdale CVS and Wakefield CVS. COEMO as a Lead body is responsible for: monitoring their implementation progress, compiling an overall monitoring report for Capacitybuilders, administering grants from Capacitybuilders and paying to each district as per agreed allocations.

Purpose of the project is to create a BME network in each district and support BME frontline organisations within the 5 District in West Yorkshire, Improving cross-district links and peer learning between network members and share similar experiences. A snap shot of current progress in each district is given below:-

CALDERDALE BME NETWORK

Calderdale BME network was formally launched in May 2007 to support BME Voluntary and community sector groups and aims to act as an umbrella organisation for all BME community and voluntary groups in Calderdale.

The BME Network has been supporting the following groups Women Together, Dil project, AWAAS, Beech Hill Community Centre and Elland Asian Women's group. The BME network had its first annual away day in June 2008. This provided an opportunity for BME groups to come together and look at the future direction of the network and discuss the development of short, medium and long term goals. The number individuals benefited from the project up to Jan 09 is approximately 85.

WAKEFIELD BME NETWORK

Over the last year the Wakefield District BME Forum has developed significantly. The ongoing support provided to the Forum as a result of funding through the Improving Reach programme has enabled the Forum to become formally constituted and to appoint representatives on key partnerships within the Wakefield District.

Although there are very few BME groups in the Wakefield District the majority of these groups are now members of the Forum and receive regular updates on training, funding and partnership opportunities in the District. This has enabled groups to engage in training opportunities such as fundraising and charity law and legal structures and to meet other VCS organisations in the Wakefield District with similar areas of work.

The Forum is now seen as a key representative structure for BME communities in the Wakefield District and is regularly consulted for its views. The local Council in particular views the Forum as a key method of engaging with BME communities and groups and has used the Forum to canvas views on their revised equality and diversity plans within the council. The importance of the Forum to the Council is reflected in the recent comprehensive area assessment which referred to the Forum several times as an example of good practice in engaging with BME communities.

LEEDS BME NETWORK

Over the past year the Leeds BME Network provided a range of support to the BME groups in the Leeds area, including helping frontline organisations market themselves more. Frontline organisations have had regular access to updated information on funding, training and events, through the Leeds BME Network website, e-news bulletins and our quarterly newsletter.

The Leeds BME Network held a very successful Networking Event in November 2008 which attracted 29 organisations from Leeds. They have also developed a strong partnership with the BME Strategy Group to organise and deliver a series of events looking at how to address inequalities for BME communities; they ran a successful event in November 2008, which focused on Health with over 50 BME community groups attending.

They have also purchased GRANT finder, which is available to all of the Leeds BME Network to access information on update grants and different funders. By the end of March 2009, they will have also have completed a new website.

KIRKLEES BME NETWORK

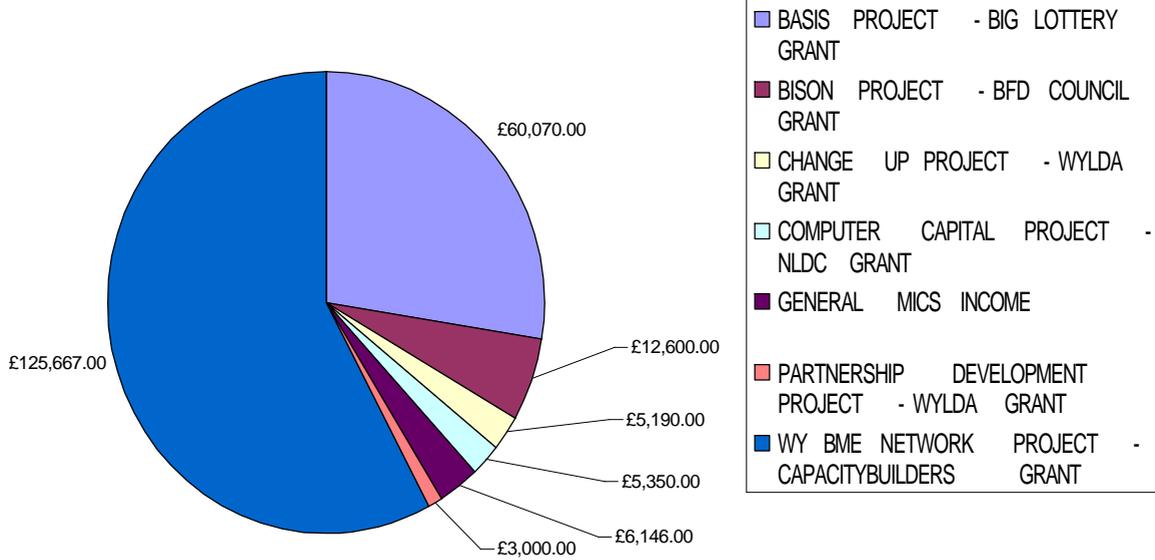
KEMA is delighted to have been selected as a partner to work with the 4 other districts in delivering the Capacity Builders Improving Reach programme. KEMA have reached out to frontline organisations and offered support and assistance to enable them to become more effective in their work. KEMA is now working with the management committee's of BME organisations and is advising and training them on issues such as governance, membership, funding, policies and quality assurance. KEMA has sought commitment from organisations to become quality compliant and will now work with them to achieve this.

KEMA's working in partnership with the other districts has taken the lead on organising and facilitating a regional BME Networks Event which will take place in March 2009. The event will enable organisations to have a regional networking opportunity.

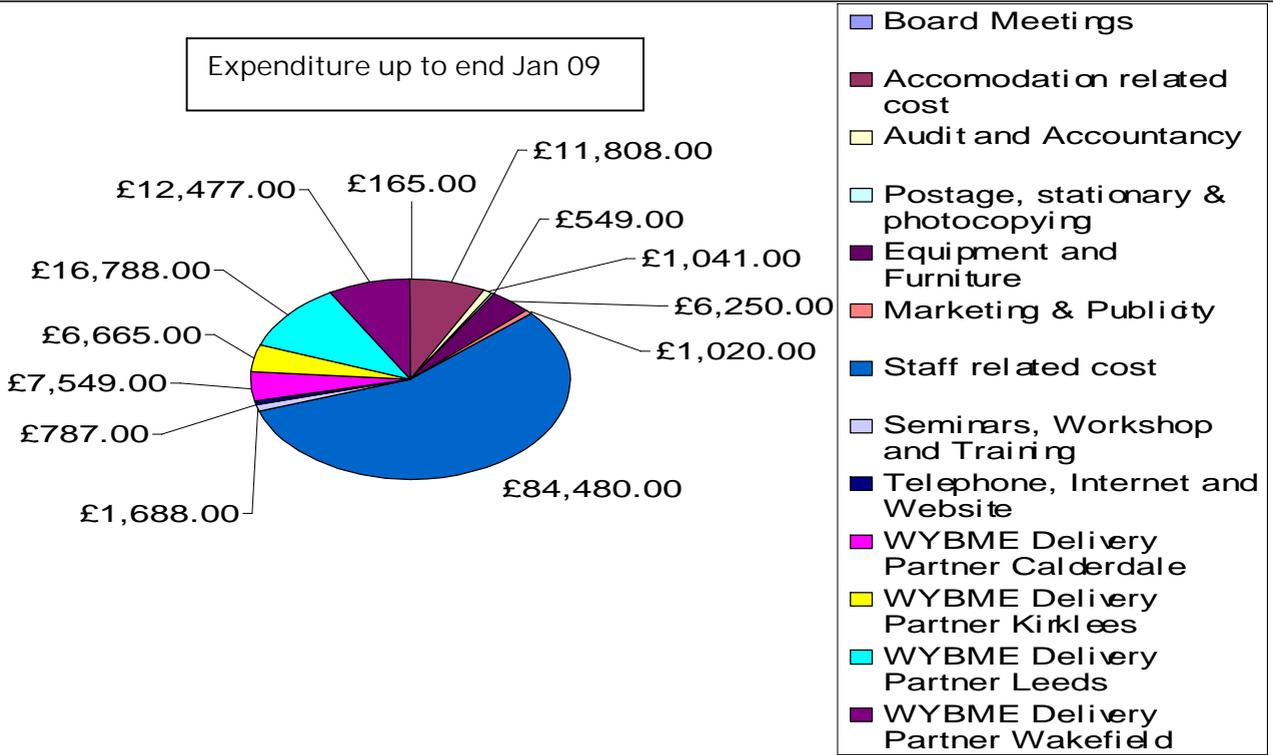
ACCOUNTS

**THIS IS AN INTERIM DRAFT ACCOUNT
FULL DETAILED AUDITED ACCOUNT WILL BE PUBLISHED AFTER MARCH 2009**

INCOME UPTO END OF MARCH 2009



Expenditure up to end Jan 09



HONORARY OFFICERS AND STAFF

HONORARY OFFICERS

Imran Khan – Chairman
Yemi Fagborun – Vice Chair
Yusuf Karolia – General Secretary
Mohammed Abbas – Treasurer

STAFF

Mohammed Salam - Chief Executive
Mushtaq Hussain – Project Manager
Mohammed Mahboob – Training & Development Officer
Sophie Mushtaq – Admin & Monitoring Officer

BOARD MEMBERS

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Abdul Hamid Ismail
Ashok Kumar Nair
Asif Khan
Balu Lad
Cora Browning
G S Chatha
Herbert Wuver
Javed Khan
Jenny Pupius

BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Alcalá
Mahbub-us-Samad
Nisar Raja JP
Peter Tate
Rashid Ahmed
Rubina Burhan
Selim Khan
Surji Cair

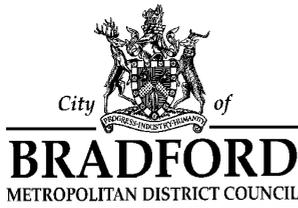
MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Action For Business (Bradford) Ltd
African Community Support Project
African Network (Anet)
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association
Anah Project
Ashiana Elderly Day care Centre
Asian Disability Awareness Action in Bradford
Asian Trades Link (ATL) Ltd
Asian Youth and Cultural Organisation
Association of Bradford Deaf
Astana Aliya Naqeebiya
Attock Community Association
Bangladesh Porishad
Bangladeshi Community Association Bradford
Barnados
BPI Drama Group
Bradford & District Women's Forum
Bradford Action for Refugees
Bradford Black and Asian Gov Assoc
Bradford Eid Committee
Bradford Muslim Welfare Society
Bradnet
British Filipino Association
Cabinda Community West Yorkshire
Cantebury Advice Centre
Cophthorne Community Association
Council of Mosques
East African Muslim Association
Fresh Start
Frizinghall Community Centre
Frontline Initiative
Grange Interlink Community Centre
Gujrat Welfare Society
Guru Nanak Gurdwara Day
Heaton Community Centre
Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh

Horton Grange Regeneration Partnership
Indian Women's Association
Islamic Men & Women's Association
Kala Sangam
Karmand Community Centre
Keighley Asian Women & Children Centre
Khidmat Centre
M A Community Development
Madhav Elderley Day Centre
Manningham And Girdlington HEAT Project
Manningham Housing Association
Manningham Sports and Youth Club
Manningham Youth Project
Marshfield Community Association
McMillan Adventure Playground Association (MAPA)
Millan Group
Millan Centre
Millet E Islamia Cultural Society
Mother & Toddler Group
Nigeria Friendship Society
Pak Kashmir United Forum
Pakistan Community & Neighbourhood Assoc
Palm Cove Society
Pan African Arts & Cultural Groups
Peacemakers
QED UK
Roshni Ghar
Saheli
Sant Niran Kari Mandal
Shree Prajapati Association
Sultan Bahu Trust
West Bowling Advice & Training Centre
West Bowling People's Partnership
West Bowling Youth Initiative (WBVI)
WomenZone
Cabinda Community West Yorkshire
S M Community College

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Management of COEMO would like to thank
all our partners, members & funders
for supporting COEMO over the year



For further information & support please contact:
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Chief Executive

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