



Building the capacity of  
frontline BME Organisations

## ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

# Consortia of Ethnic Minority Organisations



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# WELCOME TO COEMO's 09/10 ANNUAL REPORT

## A Decade of Hard work!

It is amazing how ten years have passed us so quickly! COEMO has continued to provide excellent infrastructure support to frontline BME organisations in the voluntary and community centre. The last ten years has seen a huge change in the makeup of the Bradford District BME Voluntary Sector, with so many organisations developing and needing support.

**COEMO will be celebrating ten years of service in October 2010.**

## MISSION STATEMENT

“To lead on establishing a strong and viable BME voluntary sector within West Yorkshire, which leads to equitable outcomes for all communities”

## ABOUT COEMO

- COEMO is a BME umbrella body and was formed in October 2000 to help provide specific support to hard to reach communities
- We raise the profile of BME organisations
- We have a growing membership of over 70 organisations from diverse communities
- We organise networking and consultation events
- We act as an advocate for BME Voluntary Sector and the wider community
- We help build the capacity of frontline BME and faith organisations across the region

## IMPACT OF OUR WORK

COEMO has gone from strength to strength since its conception, and we are proud to have made a huge impact to the hard-to-reach BME communities across the Bradford District.



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We are pleased to confirm that COEMO has achieved the IIP Status and were officially recognised in December 2009

This year we have:

- Supported over 120 BME community groups from across the District and .....in other west Yorkshire districts to build their capacity
- Helped groups in obtaining funding
- Brought together 8 diverse community organisations to deliver the Community Cohesion Programme as part of Bradford Council B.....C.....C.....I Project. Commenced our Community Cohesion work to deliver various activities to strengthen the community cohesion agenda.
- Increased our work across West Yorkshire
- Trained 4 volunteers who have now progressed to high-skilled jobs in the District
- Supported staff with training and development programmes to help them enter into further employment in other organisations

## BRADFORD & THE BME COMMUNITY

- Bradford population growing nearer to 500,000
- Over 22% are from ethnic minorities
- There are over 200 BME organisations across the district
- There are over 150 Mosques, Gurduaras & Temples
- The majority of BME population is < 25 years of age
- We have the highest BME population growth in the region
- We have an increasing BME 60+ older people
- We have a rapidly growing BME school population
- >20% of BME children leave school with no qualifications
- BME unemployment rate exceeds Bradford and National average

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR SALAM IN RECOGNITION FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY



This has been a major achievement for Mohammed Salam, who has worked very hard over a 40 year period!

The Board would like to express their gratitude to Dr Salam and are extremely proud that his work and dedication in supporting the voluntary sector has been rewarded with a prestigious Honorary Doctorate **Degree** from the University of Bradford.

**Improving Reach Programme: West Yorkshire BME Network:** COEMO has successfully commenced the second year of the West Yorkshire Improving Reach programme, supported by Capacity Builders. Within the district of Bradford, over 80 organisations have been supported. Various training sessions have been held, including Health in the Workplace, Employment Law, Disability, Management Committee training, and Quality Assurance.

**Feedback from across West Yorkshire:** Various activities have take place, including the provision of training in management, governance and quality assurance issues culminating in a strategy away day. A lot work has centred on supporting migrant and settling communities including planning and facilitating "Refugee Week".

A major task initiated in Kirklees is the production of a directory to list and detail all BME organisations within Kirklees. A new steering group has bee set up to oversee the implementation of the programme under the leadership of Voluntary Action Kirklees. Overall work has focussed on supporting



organisations with a variety of needs, including

Left: Attendees at the latest Quality Systems Network meeting

funding issues and advocacy.

**BCCI Community Cohesion Project**



The Communities Together has been an excellent opportunity to help frontline organisations make a significant impact to their local communities. COEMO have brought together 8 diverse community organisations from across the District to deliver innovative activities to promote social cohesion whilst addressing the key issues around racism & extremism. **156 activities will be delivered by end of September 2010.**

**BASIS Project:** The Basis programme has made a huge impact to the most hard-to-reach groups. So far 90 frontline groups have received strong support with their organisational development, including support with their organisational structures, management committee training and specific support around areas of funding, quality systems and governance development.



Attendees at the latest Commissioning event held at the Karmand Community Centre, November 2009

**BISON:** We are working in partnership with the CVSs of Bradford, Keighley and Bingley, and others such as BACC, BRC and the Equity Partnership to provide a range of strategic and **equality** activities, which is funded by the Bradford Council. In addition to this, training workshops have been delivered at the District Assembly Week, further dedicated training is been developed with BACC and Equity Partnership for groups to take up on various Equality issues.

**BASIS 2 Community Cascade Project**

Community Cascade is a Big Lottery Funded **project** with several stakeholders across West Yorkshire. Partners include Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield infrastructure organisations, delivering 4 specialist strands Environmental, Funding, Marketing and Cohesion. COEMO will lead on the cohesion strand and work with faith networks and BME **community centers** in the West Yorkshire districts. Work to support faith and BME organisations has started. COEMO appointed a Community Cohesion Adviser in November to work with faith-based networks and BME organisations, and deliver various activities as part of the District-wide

BCCI Partners include: Bangladesh Community Association, Bangladeshi Forum for Community Cohesion, Grange Interlink, Kala Sangam, Millan Centre, The Peacemakers, Thorpe Edge and West Bowling Community Centre.

programme.

## BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

### BOARD MEMBERS

Imran Khan - Chairperson  
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Shaukat Ahmed  
Surji Cair

### STAFF

Dr Mohammed Salam - Chief Executive  
Mushtaq Hussain – Project Manager  
Mohammed Mahboob – Training & Development Officer  
(resigned February 2010)

Mohammed Kamran – Cohesion Adviser  
Helene Brown – Admin Officer & PA  
Sofia Mushtaq - Admin Officer & PA (resigned July 2009)

## EVALUATION

We have received a highly positive evaluation of our work from our users, partners and stake-holders. More frontline organisations have found us to be more helpful, friendly, professional and very supportive. Our networking events, workshops and seminars have been particularly well received and attendances have been very good.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“Majors funders current funding programmes are finishing by end of March 2011. Post forthcoming general election and post April 2011 is likely to be very tough in securing funding for the voluntary sector, in particular for the BME voluntary sector. Every organisations including COEMO needs to look harder to find a sustainable way out from now on and not next year”.

Serious questions are raised about the future of the Black and Minority Ethnic infrastructure and the Government's aspiration to involve BME communities in its work.

There is no question of the invaluable support that frontline BME organisations give to Black and Minority Ethnic communities who are affected by multiple forms of deprivation and disadvantage.

There is a continuing need for strong BME infrastructure organisations facilitating the engagement and strengthens of the BME front line organisations at all levels. Unless funding for the BME networks continues the essential function they perform in speaking up for BME communities and helping the government deliver on its equalities programmes will be lost.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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