

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

RACE EQUALITY FORUM

Thursday, 6 March 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Collins (Co-Chair)
Lindsey Ambrose Area Partnerships and Forum Co-ordinator NBC
J Patel Patel Samaj, Northampton
C & S Owusu-Akuffo Divine Prayer Society
Sgt Paul Colhoun Northants Police
John Rawlings Irish Support Group
Adabe Ahmed Somalian Community
Jim Lillis Northamptonshire Healthcare Trust
Abdirahman Abdi Northamptonshire Healthcare Trust
Ellie Burgess Bromford Floating Support
Kat Westhead Bromford Floating Support
Jenny Campbell Inspiration FM

1. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Morcea Walker.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes from the meeting on 8th January were agreed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

- o L Ambrose reported that the Single Equality Scheme had now been adopted.
- o The Chair mentioned that the Face to Face consultation was due to close on the day following the meeting.

5. FESTIVAL OF WELLBEING

Jim Lillis, representing the Northamptonshire Healthcare Trust, reported on a week of activities and events planned to promote and educate people about general health and well-being. There was to be particular focus on removing the stigma and fear about mental health issues and bringing the various communities together for mutual education and support. He outlined the programme for the week, which was to conclude on Saturday 19th April with an event at the Saints rugby ground. This was to be a high-profile celebration and fun-day including international dancing, children's and adult's activities and a range of stalls and stands. Full details were available from the Trust's website at http://www.northamptonshire.nhs.uk/NHT/Features/Northamptonshire_Festival_of_Wellbeing/index.htm.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION UPDATE

The draft Community Engagement Strategy had been presented to the Council's Cabinet earlier in the week and members had felt that the strategy had not done enough to acknowledge the role of forums in consultations. This was to be addressed in the document before its final publication.

Previous consultation had comprised a citizen panel, made up of a body of statistically

representative residents who were approached for their opinion. However, this did not have the 'open door' principle of individual engagement favoured by the current administration. It was agreed that there needed to be a proper relationship between the Council and the community, with two-way dialogue to engage with the perceived successes and failures of provided services. It was suggested that more interrelation between the various forums would help to create a positive outlook and the sharing of good practice. L Ambrose explained that, although many of the items discussed in the forums were common to them all, there were obviously certain issues relevant only to the specific forum members. There had been joint events, in particular an annual meeting of older and young people who were all very energetic together and seemed to enjoy sharing issues relevant to them all.

J Rawlings commented that in the area opposite Campbell Square, where coaches pick up elderly people for day trips, the toilets had been closed. He felt that forums should have been consulted before making the decision to close the town's public toilets. The Chair conceded that this was indeed an issue for a lot of people and the current administration was looking at the situation as a whole with a long-term view of keeping some of the most used toilets open but possibly closing them out of shopping hours because of lack of funding.

J Campbell enquired of the Chair how the council would engage with hard to reach communities if there were no forums, because they were a vital tool for agencies and other people to publicise events and information. It was felt that an openness and exchange of information across combined forums would be helpful. L Ambrose pointed out that there were some occasions within the specialist forums where members preferred to discuss things with like-minded people and they needed safe space to do that. However, it had been made clear that the Chief Executive was keen to encourage neighbourhood and other forums so that local and town-wide issues could be identified. The Chair confirmed that there had never been any intention to disband forums and they should be enshrined within the Community Engagement Strategy so that each group had space to talk about their issues. There was an obligation to have a two-way communication with the community on all levels. People should be aware of the forums as their chance to lobby the Council directly on issues pertinent to their own needs.

7. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL - 2009 UPDATE

L Ambrose described some of the events at the 2008 event and suggested that in 2009 there would be a number of activities coinciding with the Ann Frank exhibition. Explaining the Ann Frank award scheme, L Ambrose gave examples of nominees who had undertaken good works in their communities and helped other people. Owing to the quantity of the nominations in the current year, the deadline for their submission had been extended to 10th April 2008. The Youth Forum was intending to ask within the community to find people to train to take part in the Ann Frank exhibition and it was felt that the heritage weekend at the Guildhall would help them become familiar with its layout. The Royal and Derngate was being approached regarding the hosting of a project involving the writing and performance of plays addressing the Holocaust memorial issues and challenging discrimination. Schools were to be involved through their curriculum, and links with schools in Poland, Pakistan and Germany would encourage students to communicate about things meaningful to them. The theme for the 2009 commemoration was still to be announced but people were encouraged to join in the planning group and contact L Ambrose if they were interested.

J Rawlings expressed concern about Holocaust memorials, commenting that whilst it was interesting to look back, people should not be deflected from current international atrocities, such as those in Cambodia and Gaza. It was pointed out that there were many Somali people in the town who had relatives and friends who were currently subject to enormous suffering. The Chair indicated the need to anchor things in present whilst learning from past and educate people as to what was happening across the world. L Ambrose made it clear

that the commemorative events were designed to link in to current issues, such as the problems in Uganda, and it was important that the occasion did not become an ancient history event.

Great concern was then expressed at the way in which the local press did not consider the sensitivity of people's situations when reporting items. Particular reference was made to the Aufona column in the Chronicle and Echo, which had recently unkindly targeted a black prostitute and had also misreported an incident involving a Quaker man, who was reported as being of Jewish origin. Sergeant Colhoun was to meet with the editors of the paper to point out their responsibilities and put forward Police concerns about underlying racially biased reporting. Such widespread press opinions could have a negative impact on attitudes and feelings within communities and lead to feelings of exclusion. Similar stereotyping of people with mental health issues had arisen in the paper and it was felt that such personal information was not relevant to the news items that were being reported. It was suggested that someone from the Chronicle and Echo be invited to the forum so that these concerns could be expressed in person. However, it was accepted that good news did not sell papers. The Chair also expressed unease at the Aufona column, which appeared to go against the Chronicle and Echo's current motto of 'making Northampton Proud' by their contemptuous reporting of leading figures in local government. It was felt that, as a medium, radio was better in raising issues because of the opportunity for debate. L Ambrose pointed out that there were a lot of positive reports about young people on BBC local radio covering different activities from a variety of communities. Radio seemed to be keener to have good news stories about the work going into building communities. This was going a long way to help to break stereotypes.

8. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

8.1 COMMUNITY NEWS

St Patrick Day – Although this fell on a Monday there was a programme of events over the preceding weekend. The Guildhall was being used on Saturday 15th March for a series of activities, including Irish culture, food, art and Irish dancers. The event was open to all.

There was to be a Somalian engagement evening on 20th March with police involvement at The Guildhall between 7.00 and 9.45pm, which would include music, dance and information about the services that people might want to access.

8.2 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

The aim of the event, being held on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March was to increase the awareness of current sports, health and fitness provision across the borough. It was open to women and girls of all ages and cultures and as well as sporting activities there were to be talks on black history and discussions on what people saw as barriers against doing more in Northampton.

8.3 MONEY 4 YOUTH UPDATE

The Youth Forum had met on the previous Saturday to short list projects for the coming year. L Ambrose read a list of some of the approved projects, many of which involved young people from minority ethnic backgrounds and areas identified in the town as being deprived. A Ahmed felt that that older people in the Somalian community were in need of more help and it was suggested that Olive Robinson be contacted for information about African and Caribbean facilities. L Ambrose pointed out that there was also good support for the elderly with a particularly lively Pensioners' group who met regularly in Abington. With regard to youth projects, there was concern about the difficulty of publicising newly introduced sports from other countries, such as Gaelic football. L Ambrose explained about a website currently under construction that could be the medium for advertising

(www.activenorthants.co.uk). Items for inclusion on the site could be sent to her on lambrose@northampton.gov.uk. She also regularly updated links on the youth forum area of the NBC website which signposted people to a range of activities.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

It was suggested that an update be requested following a presentation to the forum on the concerns surrounding the underachievement of black children in schools. There followed discussion on the limitations of the forum to make progress with this, as it was a matter under the remit of the County Council. However, it was agreed that the forum's annual day event could be used to address the issue of raising aspirations and achievement in young people (including BME children) with invitations to be sent to Governor Services, the University, College and head teachers as well as Educators, to attend.

J Campbell also requested that an item be raised on a future agenda to discuss travellers and gypsies and hate crimes. L Ambrose suggested that a work plan be created so that items that have been brought to the forum could be revisited on a regular basis and actions agreed on.

It was requested that other items for inclusion in a work plan be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

29th May 2008

The meeting concluded at 21.00

M5420

Northamptonshire Festival of Wellbeing 2008 Minute Item 5

Celebration Day Event

Saturday 19 April 2008, 10am to 3pm
Northampton Saints Rugby Ground,
Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Road, Northampton, NN5 5BG

(a) Requirements:

Do you require a stand? If so how many? State number

Do you require chairs? If so how many? State number

Do you require tables? If so how many? State number

(b) Drama/Dance or other activity:

Please describe your activity

Approximately how much space will you require (please include space required for any extra equipment, e.g. sound systems)?

 Square feet

What time of day would you prefer to hold your event? You may possibly be allowed to repeat your activity more than once.

Please state whether there is any other way you wish to participate on the day

Are there any other reasonable adjustments we need to make in order to help you to participate in the Celebration Day?

(c) Contact Details:

Name:

Address or email:

Contact

Number(s): Day/Eve

Mobile

Please return this form to:

Jim Lillis, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Campbell House, Campbell Square, Northampton NN1 3EB
Email: jim.lillis@nht.northants.nhs.uk



Wellbeing
in Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Festival of Wellbeing

NHS

Celebration Day!

**Celebrating health
and wellbeing in
Northamptonshire**

Gospel Choir, Bollywood Dancers, Morris
Dancing, Circus Workshop, Face Painting,
Complementary Therapies, Somali Dancers,
Irish Dancing, music, poems, stands, stalls,
and lots more.....

Sat 19 April 2008

10am to 3pm

**Franklins Gardens,
Weedon Road,
Northampton**

**Free entry
Free parking**

**For more information
call Jim on 01604 658987**

www.northamptonshire.nhs.uk/nht



Ann Crowder
Equality and Diversity Manager
Sudborough House
St Mary's Hospital
London Road
Kettering
Northants NN15 7PW

Tel: 01536 494811

Fax: 01536 494216

Date:

Email: ann.crowder@nht.northants.nhs.uk

Re: DELIVERING RACE EQUALITY IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES,
APRIL 14th 2008

Dear

We are in a very fortunate position to have been successful in booking three keynote speakers for the Northamptonshire Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Services Event taking place on the 14th April 2008. It is an all day high profile event for local, regional and national importance and will be held at Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton. Our keynote speakers include:

- Lord Kamlesh Patel, OBE, who is also professor in the Centre of Ethnicity and Health. He has been advisor to the government on mental health, drugs and ethnicity and a main driving force behind the DRE programme.
- Dr Mary Tilkey, Chair of the Federation of Irish Societies and has extensive experience of and involvement with the DRE programme and sits on the DRE National Board.
- Barney Choudhury, BBC correspondent who has a very strong interest in mental health issues and will be covering national and local press coverage of mental health.

All three are stimulating and engaging speakers and we are also inviting other key local community and political leaders to attend.

This will also be the launch event for the Community Well Being Festival 2008, which is being led by the Trust. After the speakers we are having Information Networking Sessions, which will be "active" sessions. So here is an opportunity for our services to promote their good practices and for all of us to find out what else is going on out there in "communities".

As a Northants FIS (Focused Implementation Site) we have accomplished a great deal, now is the time to celebrate this and I hope that you will be able to attend and participate to give this a high profile and an appropriate audience for the speakers.

Please can you also bring this to the attention of your managers and staff and we look forward to you and them becoming involved. Please complete the following slip and return to Sharon Spencer at Sudborough House.

Yours sincerely

Ann Crowder on behalf of the
Well Being Festival Committee

Date: **14th April 2008** Time: **09.15 – 15.00 hrs**

Event: **Northamptonshire DRE Conference**

Venue: **Kings Park Conference Centre**

I will be able to attend the Northamptonshire DRE Conference on 14th April 2008.

Name:.....

Contact details: (telephone, email and address please)

.....

Date: **Signed:**.....

Any special needs (please specify).....

Please return completed form to: **Sharon.Spencer@nht.northants.nhs.uk**

Or to

Sharon Spencer

Sudborough House

St Mary's Hospital

London Road

Kettering NN15 7PW



Community Mental Health Services
Campbell House
Campbell Square
Northampton
NN1 3EB

21st February 2008

Dear all,

SPIRITUALITY, RELIGION, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE,
18TH APRIL 2008, DODDRIDGE CENTRE, ST JAMES ROAD, NORTHAMPTON NN5 5LD

Northamptonshire Healthcare Trust would like to invite you to the above half-day conference.

The aim of the day is to discuss the role that religion and spirituality play in wellbeing and mental health in all faith communities and how our mental health services can enhance the care we deliver. (Please see attached programme for details).

Places are limited, but we aim to include as many faith leaders and communities as possible.

Light refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please complete the attached form and return to:

Jim Lillis
Service Manager
Campbell House
Campbell Square
Northampton
NN1 3EB

For more information please contact Sylvia Pierrotte on 01604- 658880 or Email:
Sylvia.Pierrotte@nht.northants.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

SYLVIA PIERROTTE
SOCIAL WORKER

...Cont



**SPIRITUALITY, RELIGION, WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE,
18TH APRIL 2008, DODDRIDGE CENTRE, ST JAMES ROAD, NORTHAMPTON NN5 5LD**

PROGRAMME

09.00 to 09.30

Registration and refreshments

09.30

Welcome and aims of the day

09.45

Philip Douglas

Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP)

10.15

Personal experiences

10.45.

Refreshments

11.30

Discussion

12 noon

What next?

12.30

Closing comments

12.45

Close



Northamptonshire Healthcare



NHS Trust

Date: 18th April 2008
Event: Religion, Spirituality and mental health
Venue: DODDRIDGE CENTRE, ST JAMES ROAD, NORTHAMPTON NN5 5LD
Time: 09.00 – 13.00 hrs

Please reserve place(s) on the conference

Name:.....

Community representing.....

Any requirements: Dietary (Please state).....

Prayer room required YES /NO

Any other requirements (please state).....

Date: Signed:.....

Please return completed form to:

Jim Lillis
Service Manager
Campbell House
Campbell Square
Northampton
NN1 3EB

Please send confirmation of my place(s) to, (indicate preference)

Address:

Email:



Jim Lillis
Service Manager
Campbell House
Campbell Square
Northampton
NN1 3EB

14th February 2008

Dear all,

**DELIVERING RACE EQUALITY IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
16TH APRIL 2008, NORTHAMPTON BANGLADESHI ASSOCIATION, MILL ROAD,
SEMILONG, NORTHAMPTON, NN2 6AX**

Northamptonshire Healthcare Trust is hosting a conference aimed at Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Northamptonshire.

The aim of this day is to look at the "Delivering Race Equality in mental health, an action plan for reform" (DoH January 2005) and what does this actually mean for BME communities, individuals and health service providers.

We would like to invite you to be a part of this event. There will be presentations, workshops, discussions, a question and answer session. (Please see attached programme)

This is a free event. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Places are limited and we wish to have as wide a representation of BME communities as we can.

There is full disabled access; parking is on the road outside the centre.

Please fill in the attached registration form and return to Jim Lillis at the address above.

If you have any questions please ring on 01604-658987 or email jim.lillis@nht.northants.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely,

**JIM LILLIS
CONFERENCE ORGANISER**



Northamptonshire Healthcare
NHS Trust



DELIVERING RACE EQUALITY IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

16th APRIL 2008, NORTHAMPTON BANGLADESHI ASSOCIATION

Programme

09.00 to 09.30: Registration and coffee

Presentations

09.45: Delivering Race Equality, What does it mean?

10.15: The role of BME CDW's

10.45: Refreshments

11.00: Workshops series 1

What does the DRE report actually mean to you?

What should be the role of services and BME CDW's?

What role do communities play in relation to mental health?

12.00 to 12.45 Lunch (NB: All food will be Halal with vegetarian options)

13.00 Workshops series 2 (as morning)

14.00 Workshops series 3

14.45 Refreshments

15.00: Feedback from workshops

15.30: Questions to the Panel

16.00: Close

The aim is to give all those attending to participate in all three workshops.



Northamptonshire Healthcare
NHS Trust



Date: 16th April 2008
Event: Delivering Race Equality in mental health. What does it mean?
Venue: Northampton Bangladeshi Association
Time: 09.00 – 15.00 hrs

Please reserve place(s) on the conference

Name:.....

Community representing.....

Any requirements: Dietary (Please state).....

Prayer room required YES /NO

Any other requirements (please state).....

Date: Signed:.....

Please return completed form to:

Jim Lillis
Service Manager
Campbell House
Campbell Square
Northampton
NN1 3EB

Please send confirmation of my place(s) to, (indicate preference)

Address:

Email: