

新年快樂!

नव वर्ष शुभ हो

ENGLISH

Happy New Year!

ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਭਰਿਆ ਨਵਾਂ ਸਾਲ

نیاسال مبارک

Associations Receive Funding for JOB OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORT PROJECT

Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations are pleased to announce that they have been successful in receiving funding of £108,000 from **Communities Scotland** and the **Capital City Partnership** for three years. The **JOB OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORT PROJECT** is the latest addition to the Associations' Equal Opportunities Programme.

The objective of the project is to help improve access to job opportunities in housing and the public sector for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in Edinburgh and Lothians.

The project will be headed up by a full time Job Opportunities Development Officer who will act as a liaison between employers and Black and Minority Ethnic communities to help overcome barriers to employment opportunities.

The project will start in January 2006. We will be making contact with individuals and organisations in the New Year.

For further information on the project please contact Rohini Sharma on 0131 444 4950 or rsharma@trusha.org.uk, or visit our website

www.EqualityScotland.com

We Have Moved

The Equal Opportunities Programme team has moved to the following location:

Trust Housing Association Ltd
12 New Mart Road
Edinburgh EH14 1RL
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Housing for Older People
NEWSLETTER
This Newsletter is also available in Chinese, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu

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CARE AND REPAIR IN EDINBURGH

(AGE CONCERN) LTD

Care and Repair is a registered charity that offers help to Edinburgh homeowners and private tenants who are over 60 or disabled with house repairs, improvements and small household tasks.

Most of Care and Repair's services are free and the clients are only charged for the materials used. There are four types of services offered:

- **Home Improvement Service** - help and advice about organising major work such as appointing an architect, applying for building warrants and hiring a contractor.
- **Small Repairs Service** – carries out small joinery tasks such as fitting locks and repairing window sash cords.
- **Handyperson Service** - organises volunteers to change a light bulb, hang curtains and perform a host of other small tasks which many older or disabled people can no longer do for themselves.
- **Trades Referral Service** - provides the names of reliable trades people who will do a good job.

This year Care and Repair plans to launch its "Home from Hospital" service. Working with social work and hospital discharge teams to help avoid delays when people are ready to come out of hospital, Care and Repair will carry out a minor repair or oversee a major improvement to accommodate a person's health needs."

Care and Repair receives funding from the City of Edinburgh Council. However, it also depends on volunteers and donations to cover its revenue costs.

If you think you could benefit from the services offered contact 0131 220 7630 or reception@careandrepairedinburgh.org.uk.

If you would like to find out about volunteering speak to the Handyperson Co-ordinator, John Richardson. www.careandrepairedinburgh.org.uk

Working in Partnership...

Older Person's Week

On 6 October 2005, the three Associations participated in an event organised in partnership with Renfrewshire Council, Arklet Housing Association, Communities Scotland and Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations.



Workshops were held on a variety of subjects such as "Housing for Older People", "Care & Repair" and "Pension and Other Benefits for Older People."

Rohini Sharma observed, "The event was a great success and an example of good partnership working to deliver information and advice to benefit Black and Minority Ethnic older people. We hope to continue this approach."

Strategic Review of Sheltered Housing

The City of Edinburgh Council is carrying out a survey of the existing sheltered housing provision in Edinburgh. The purpose of the review is to define the current and future role of sheltered housing within the city and to assess demand for sheltered housing by seeking views of resident and non-resident older people.

To ensure that the views of all communities are sought out, the City of Edinburgh Council has asked Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations to coordinate a survey of older people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

It is hoped that the review will be completed by February 2006. For more information please contact Elaine Scott at the City of Edinburgh Council on 0131 529 2277 or Rohini Sharma on 0131 444 4950 or rsharma@trustha.org.uk.

Awards - Awards - Awards

The Associations' work has been nationally recognised for their initiatives to promote equal opportunities by the following awards:

- **2005 British Diversity Awards**

Winner of the 'Diversity in Public Service Champion Award' for the "Happy to Translate" Logo initiative.

- **RaceActionNet Awards 2005**

'Highly Commended' for the "Happy to Translate" Logo initiative. As a co-funder of the "Happy to Translate" Logo Initiative and a member organisation of RaceActionNet, Communities Scotland nominated the Associations for this award.

- **UK Housing Awards 2005**

The Associations' Housing Equal Opportunities Programme was selected as a Finalist in the category of 'Outstanding Achievement in Social Housing in Scotland'.



Rohini Sharma accepted a commendation on behalf of the Associations from Rt. Hon. Baroness Amos of Brondesbury (Leader of the House of Lords and President of the Council)

RaceActionNet Awards 2005.



Air Vice-Marshal Chris Moran (Assistant Chief of the Air Staff) presents the award to Rohini Sharma and Aisha Nadeem at the **British Diversity Awards 2005 in London.**



Representatives from the Associations at the **UK Housing Awards** in London, L-R: Helen Murdoch, David McClean, Nan Burnett, Fiona Miller, Rohini Sharma, Katrina Turner, Gordon Ritchie, Douglas Boyd.

Progress Updates...

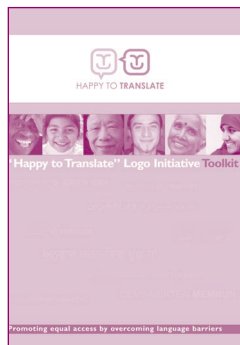
“Happy to Translate” Logo



The “Happy to Translate” Logo has been progressing very well under the guidance of the Steering Group (consisting of funders and pilot organisations).

An official Toolkit is ready and will be used by the pilot organisations as they “go live” with the Logo early this year. The Toolkit will provide pilot organisations with information and guidelines to ensure that people who face language barriers have equal access to information and services.

Tamiko Mackie, Logo Development Officer, will be visiting communities to explain what to expect from the organisations displaying the logo. The piloting organisations are **Bield Housing Association, City of Edinburgh Council, Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association, Lothian and Borders Police, Moray Council, NHS Lothian and Trust Housing Association.**



Information about the initiative in 14 community languages can be downloaded at www.happytotranslate.com. Or contact the Logo Development Officer, Tamiko Mackie, on 0131 444 4951 or tmackie@trustha.org.uk.

Pension Benefit Outreach Project

Since starting in May 2005 this project has been extremely successful in improving and increasing benefit uptake for Black and Minority Ethnic older people in central Scotland.



To date 200 older people aged 60+ have been assessed and nearly seventy have benefited from an increase in their benefit entitlement. In total, £170,000 in additional benefits has been secured for older people!

If you or someone you know can benefit from the project, please contact the Pension Benefit Outreach Worker, Aisha Nadeem, on 0131 444 4952 or anadeem@trustha.org.uk. Advice is free and will be made available in your own language.

EDINBURGH

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Bield HA

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LOOKING FORWARD TO...

Job Opportunities Fair 2006

The third annual Job Opportunities Fair for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities will be held on Sunday, 4th June 2006 at Caird Hall, Dundee.

There will be more information about this event in the coming months (look for updates on www.EqualityScotland.com closer to the date). In the meantime please contact Rohini Sharma (details at bottom of page) if...

- You are a housing or public sector employer and would like to participate as an exhibitor;
- You are part of an organisation working to promote equal opportunities in employment;
- You are a job seeker and would like to be kept informed about the event.

SHOP Housing Application

Through their partnership working, the three Associations have developed a joint housing application form called SHOP (Scottish Housing Older People).

This form will soon be made available in English and several different community languages on www.EqualityScotland.com.

Housing and Benefits Advice

Are you 60+ and would like advice on housing for older people or wish to have your benefits assessed? The advice given will be confidential, in your language and at the place most convenient to you.

Please contact Rohini Sharma or Aisha Nadeem on 0131 444 1200 to make an appointment or email: rsharma@trustha.org.uk or anadeem@trustha.org.uk



This newsletter is a joint publication by **Trust, Hanover (Scotland)** and **Bield Housing Associations**. Previous issues can be viewed at www.EqualityScotland.com. If you would like to make comments or suggestions, or if you want your event or project to be considered for publication, please contact:

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