

Tenant Participation Advisory Service Award

The Associations' Equal Opportunities Programme has won the Good Practice in Participation Award in the category of **'Participation with Difficult to Reach Groups'** from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Scotland.

We are delighted to receive this award which recognises the ground-breaking work we have done in opening up opportunities for older people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities and in giving them a voice and platform to express their views.



Aisha Nadeem and Rohini Sharma Joshi receiving award.

Happy to Translate Logo Funding

The Scottish Executive has awarded the associations £51,562 in support of the Happy to Translate project. The bridging finance will support the project until it moves to self-funding status. The Associations are grateful to the Scottish Executive's Equality Unit for their continued support.

Job Opportunities Project

The Job Opportunities project has made significant progress and to date 154 people have been seen and assessed, resulting in 14 securing posts. We continue to carry out follow-up work including referrals to external agencies for specific support service for clients where appropriate. Further support has been provided through various workshops in partnership with **Careers Scotland & the City of Edinburgh Council.**

We are pleased to report that four people have successfully completed work placements, equipping them with greater confidence to apply for permanent jobs. The placements providers were: **Stevenson College, Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association, Bield Housing Association and The Procurator Fiscal.**

New placement providers are: **Lothian & Borders Police, Trust Housing Association, Port of Leith Housing Association and the Melville Housing Association.**

An Annual Report was produced for the Project's funders, highlighting the barriers, support processes, outcomes and achievements to date. Following on from this a client survey was completed to gain feedback. The response from this was very positive and we will present the findings in the near future.

Midlothian Job Fair

We staged a targeted **Job Fair in Midlothian** on **Sunday 25th March 2007** to reach out to the communities living in the surrounding area.

Exhibitors included: **Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service, Midlothian Council, Link Group, Careers Scotland, and Lothian & Borders Police, East Lothian Council, Bield Housing Association and Construction Skills.**

Many thanks to all of the organisations for their commitment and support for the Project which is funded by Communities Scotland and the Capital City Partnership.



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

We are pleased to announce that the 'Happy to Translate' Logo Initiative has now successfully concluded its year-long pilot phase. We would like to thank all twelve of our pilot organisations for their participation and input, as well as the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland for their funding support.

'Happy to Translate' has now been rolled-out as a fully operational initiative. Current members include the following organisations:

Bield Housing Association
City of Edinburgh Council
Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service
Glasgow Housing Association
Govanhill Housing Association
Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association
Lothian and Borders Police
Moray Council
NHS Lothian
Scottish Refugee Council
Trust Housing Association

We would also like to welcome the latest organisations to come on board:

Tayside Fire and Rescue Services
Scottish Prison Service
Southside Housing Association

If your organisation would like to receive information on applying for membership, please contact the 'Happy to Translate' Logo support team on 0131 444 4950 or info@happytotranslate.com

Pension Benefit Outreach Project

This project has now concluded after delivering very successful results. We produced a report **“Just for the Record”** highlighting the project’s activities, successes and outcomes as well as remaining barriers.

The Pension Benefit Guide for 60+ has been updated with new benefits entitlements as from April 2007. For a copy of the guide in English, Arabic, Cantonese, Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu please phone 0131 444 4942.

This project was about more than just maximising income. It was also aimed at bridging the gap between BME older people and access to services by providing them with the necessary knowledge and basic tools to help them find out about what services are available to them. We were able to put many BME older people in touch with services such as Care and Repair, Social Services and other service providers.

However, many older people are still not sure of their entitlements and consequently miss out on a great deal of assistance. Unfortunately, owing to constraints on both funding and time, the project could only scratch the surface of the problems in this area. We uncovered ample evidence that more work needs done to alleviate problems facing older BME people.

To access copies of both publications please visit our website EqualityScotland.com



Africa Centre Scotland

The Associations "Equal Opportunities Programme" organised and sponsored an information event held in partnership with the Africa Centre on 3 March 07 in Edinburgh. The Event was attended by all ages. A survey was carried out and focus groups were held to discuss barriers faced by African communities in accessing services.

A report will be produced on the survey and focus group findings, highlighting the needs of African Communities.

Many thanks to Francis and Celina from the Africa Centre for their hard work in organising the event.



Aberdeen Job Fair

The fourth Job Opportunities fair was organised by the Associations in partnership with Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland. The event was held in the Music Hall and opened by Cllr. Saluja. We extend our gratitude to the Scottish Parliament and Communities Scotland for sponsoring the event.

Employers were encouraged to take a proactive approach in highlighting the opportunities available within their organisation by participating as an exhibitor and raising their profile among Scotland's BME communities.



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Equality Scotland Website

We continue to update the website with new publications, events, projects and information. However, we value your feedback and encourage you to continue to keep sending us your comments.

Trust, Hanover and Bield Housing Associations should be congratulated for their work in promoting equality, in particular their new website EqualityScotland.com. It is a very helpful website for an organisation like ours to find out information about housing and recruitment on behalf of our users and to refer them to appropriate services.

Nina Giles, Director, Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council.

Communications Strategy

Issue 2 is now available on the Equality Scotland website.

Welcome

We welcome Tony Fyanka - "Happy to Translate" Logo Administrator who has joined the Equal Opportunities Team to cover maternity leave.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tamiko and Andrew on birth of their beautiful baby girl!

Goodbye

Aisha Nadeem, our Benefit Outreach Worker has moved on to a new job with the Associations. We wish her all the best in her new job and thank her for the hard work she has put in to make the project successful.

Surgeries / Information

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

Please contact Rohini Sharma Joshi on 0131 444 4950 to make an appointment.



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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