

Equality Scotland Housing for Older People

ENGLISH



*Wishing you a happy
and prosperous New Year*



Lottery money to support landmark Memories Project

The Associations are delighted to have received funding from Awards for All, Big Lottery for a special project to record the experiences and memories of BME older people. The project will record the hardships and fears they experienced when they first arrived in Scotland and will also celebrate their achievements. It will include personal tales of how they overcame many challenges including language, literacy and numeracy and how they adapted to new cultural surroundings.

We are keen to speak to anyone who has an interesting story to tell and would like to share their memories. We can provide help with translation and interpretation where needed. We are also interested in collecting memorabilia such as old family photos, identity cards, accounts books, or tickets. Any items would be handled carefully, photographed and returned in good condition.

If you have a story to tell or know of others please contact Rohini on 0131 444 4950.

Awards recognition for Equal Opportunities Programme

The Association's Equal Opportunities Programme was delighted to be shortlisted for several prestigious national awards in recognition of our work.

The awards for which we were shortlisted include: UK Housing Awards 2008 – in two categories:

- Outstanding Contribution to Housing in Scotland and
- Contributing to Wider Community Agenda.

We were also shortlisted for the Guardian Public Sector Awards in the category of Care of Older People.

This Newsletter is also available in Chinese (Cantonese), Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic and Bengali.

NEWSLETTER

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TEAM JOINS MAJOR EUROPEAN AGEING DEBATE

Active Ageing of Migrant Elders across Europe - Conference, Germany

The first European Conference "New Face for Europe" Minority Ethnic and Migrant Elders across Europe – from Challenges to Opportunities was organised by North Rhine – Westphalia Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration, Germany.

The conference was held on 30.09.08 to 02.10.08 in the World Conference Centre Bonn, Germany.

Our Housing Equal Opportunities Manager, Rohini Sharma Joshi was invited to speak on Quality Housing Concepts for Migrant Elders and was joined by Helen Murdoch, Chief Executive, Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association.

It was interesting and encouraging to learn about the work being done for BME older people across Europe and to participate in the debate to improve service delivery.

For more information on the conference please visit www.aamee.eu

Rohini & Helen Murdoch, Chief Executive Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association, at the conference in Bonn, Germany.



All our Futures Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population

Older BME people will be represented in the National Forum on Ageing Implementation Group which has invited Housing Equal Opportunities Manager, Rohini Sharma Joshi to take part in its discussions.

The Group has been set up as a dynamic and pro-active think tank which will engage in strategic planning designed to position Scotland firmly at the forefront of the age agenda. An update on the work of the Group will be provided in future newsletters.

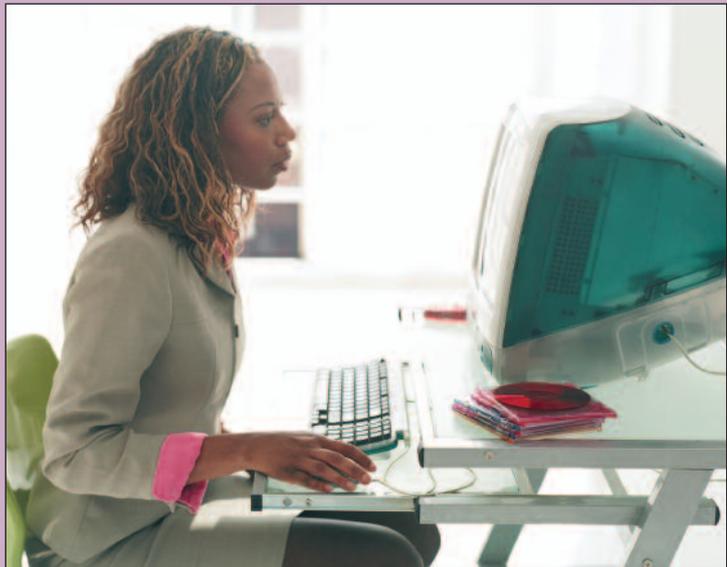
Job Opportunities Support Project notches up new success

The highly successful "Job Opportunities Support Project" (JOSP) continues to provide a liaison between Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and housing and public sector employers to help overcome barriers to employment and career advancement.

The project has established links with many community organisations, housing and public sector employers and individuals requiring support and guidance with gaining employment. The project has made significant progress with 282 clients assessed and provided with support and guidance, while a further 48 individuals have gained employment through the project. Work placements have been very successful with positive outcomes for both trainees and employers. So far 15 placements have been completed and talks are underway with employers to commence a further eight work placements in the New Year.

This is an excellent opportunity for housing and public sector employers to take advantage of the services being offered through this project.

At the same time, the project makes every effort to design its services to meet the clients' needs. The training needs of



individuals identified are met through training sessions.

Through the project, clients are not only able to improve their own lives, but also those of their families and local communities. They have attained increased skills, confidence and financial independence and have also become role models for other BME people. The project will continue to build on this success, ensuring that its support service remains relevant to the needs of the BME individuals as well as being relevant to the wider needs of society.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the project please contact Rana Sallam on 0131 444 4953 or rsallam@trustha.org.uk, or visit our website: www.EqualityScotland.com

Happy to Translate signs up first member in England

The Happy to Translate Initiative has taken a significant step towards becoming recognised as a UK-wide initiative by signing up its first member outwith Scotland. Paradigm Housing Association has become our first English Member. We warmly welcome Paradigm Housing Association and look forward to other organisations across the UK becoming members of the the Happy to Translate Initiative.

The latest addition brings the total number of member organisations to 29. We welcome the following other new members:

Pentland Housing Association
Cairn Housing Association
Kingdom Housing Association

Queens Cross Housing Association
Clyde Valley Housing Association
North Glasgow Housing Association

The Happy to Translate team has marketed the initiative at various exhibitions, conferences and community events around the country. The team continues to update and make further developments in the Initiative which will result in an enhanced service for users.

HTT Chair, Helen Murdoch has written to the Scottish Government on behalf of the HTT member organisations as part of a new lobby initiative to campaign for the establishment of a regulatory body in Scotland to monitor standards in interpretation and translation services.

We are grateful to the Scottish Government for providing funding of £46,536 for the HTT project for year 2008-09 from its Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Funding stream.

If you would like to receive information about 'Happy to Translate' initiative or would like to apply for membership, please contact 'Happy to Translate' support team on 0131-444 4950/4951/4981 or visit www.happytotranslate.com



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

Lottery Funded Older People Services Development Project raises over £100K

The Older People Services Development Project has got off to a dynamic start, raising in excess of £100,000 in its first year. The programme has already provided benefit checks for more than 185 older people- almost double its initial target of 100 people in its first year.

To date, the project has managed to raise a total of £102,556.39 in benefits for older BME people.

During this period the project was engaged in sustained marketing activities, including promoting its services at six events. The marketing push proved highly effective, leading to many new referrals. This year the project's two Co-ordinators carried out 34 surgeries at Elderly Day Care Centres and voluntary sector organisations working with BME communities.

In addition to this the project has also been successful in helping older BME people to access other services such as housing, home adaptations, taxi cards, disabled parking badges, care & repair, central heating programme and bus passes.

The year is coming to a close and we are looking forward to presenting our first year report to the Big Lottery Fund. We are

already planning areas to target for next year in other parts of Scotland. We would like to reach out to as many BME older people as possible, especially those living in rural Scotland who may not be aware of our services.

Co-ordinators are currently planning to hold new surgeries at new venues in partnership with Day Care Centres and community organisations. Information on these surgeries will be advertised within the local communities.

If you are sixty years of age or over or know someone who may benefit from advice on benefits, housing or other services please contact Neeru (0131 444 4952) or Anthony (0131 444 4941) for an appointment.

Don't Delay and Risk Losing Benefits.

We will help no matter where you live in Scotland.



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DUNDEE

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ARRAN

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303700
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ELGIN

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Tell us what you think about consumer issues in Scotland – join our Network

An appeal has been issued for volunteers to join a Scotland-wide panel to ensure that the voice of consumers in Scotland is heard.

Consumer Network, would like to encourage more people from all over Scotland to get involved in the Network, so that the needs and experiences of local communities can be properly heard:

Anyone interested in joining the Consumer Network are asked to contact:

**Gill MacGregor, Consumer Network Co-ordinator
Consumer Focus Scotland**

T: 0141 227 6462

E: gill.macgregor@consumerfocus-scotland.org.uk

W: www.consumerfocus-scotland.org.uk

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SURGERIES/ INFORMATION

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

Please contact Neeru or Anthony on 0131 444 4952/4941 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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