

Equality Scotland Housing for Older People

ENGLISH

Job Opportunities Project secures funding from Capital City

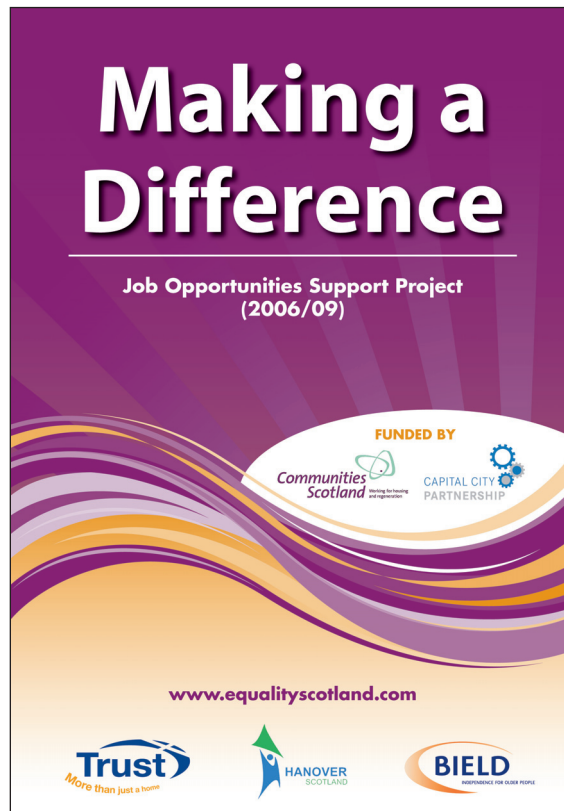
The Job Opportunities Support Project has secured funding from the Capital City Partnership which will allow it to continue its work for a further two years.

The project, which commenced in 2006, focused on improving job prospects in the housing and wider public sectors for people from BME communities. The Equal Opportunities Programme has published a report, *"Making a Difference"*, detailing the Project's findings and achievements in its first three years.

The Project, which involved partnership with major public sector employers in Edinburgh and Lothians, surpassed its target of assisting 300 clients in three years, working with a total of **307** clients in this time. Individual success stories from the project include **55** people who gained permanent employment.

A further **10** clients progressed into further education or training courses to build on their skills and **11** clients became involved in voluntary work on the advice of the Job Opportunities Development Officer to gain more UK work experience and improve their chances of securing a permanent job.

The Job Opportunities Support Officer will contact existing clients and looks forward to supporting new clients.



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

NEWSLETTER

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July 2009
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LOTTERY-FUNDED OLDER PEOPLE PROJECT HITS MILESTONE

The Older People Services Development Project, created to help older BME people gain access to essential benefits and services, has achieved a major milestone by completing more than 350 benefits checks across Scotland since it commenced in January 2008.

The project, which received Lottery funding, has been very successful in improving the lives of older BME people, raising a total of more than £270,000 in benefits to date. It has also helped older BME people to access a range of other key services to which they are entitled such as Disability Allowance and central heating installation.

The project will build on its success by reaching out to older BME people throughout Scotland. This involves expanding the project's network and developing more community contacts through special events such as one held in Stirling on June 13 in partnership with Central Scotland Racial Equality Council. The Stirling event included a focus group discussion on the future needs of older people during which participants provided valuable feedback.

Project co-ordinators continue to hold surgeries at new venues in partnership with Day Centres and community organisations. Information on these surgeries will be advertised within local communities.

If you are 60 or over or know someone who may benefit from our services, please contact Neeru (0131 444 4952) or Anthony (0131 444 4941) for an appointment.

We are committed to helping people no matter where they live in Scotland.



Project Co-ordinators holding focus group discussions

Paradigm launches Happy to Translate Logo in England



Happy to Translate was delighted to attend the launch event of its first England-based member, Paradigm Housing, in June.

Paradigm, a leading provider of affordable housing in southeast England, held a celebratory party to mark the occasion which was also attended by members of Hillingdon Council, including its new Mayor; the Police; voluntary associations and community groups. Guests were invited to wear saris and have their hands painted in traditional Somali henna patterns.

Since our last issue, Happy to Translate membership has grown to 33. We welcome the following new member organisations to the initiative and wish them every success in developing and enhancing their language assistance services:

Shettleston Housing Association
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator
Ochil View Housing Association
Moray Housing Partnership



*Rohini Sharma
 Joshi, Happy
 to Translate
 and Jon
 Theobald,
 Paradigm*

The Happy to Translate team has promoted the initiative at numerous conferences and community events nationwide and also internationally since January. The team will continue to strive to identify more public organisations who could potentially become members. The team will also continue its outreach work with BME communities to increase awareness of the logo.



Asian Women Awards success

We offer our sincere congratulations to Aisha and Neeru, who were both winners at the first Asian Women Empowerment Awards, held on Monday 29 June 09 in Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. The awards were organised by Nari Kalyan Shangho, an Asian Women's organisation in Edinburgh.



Neeru Bhatnagar

Neeru won in the category of *Mentor* for working with mentors and mentees to support BME communities. Neeru was also recognised for her work with various community projects including as co-founder of The Indian Music and Dance collective in Edinburgh.

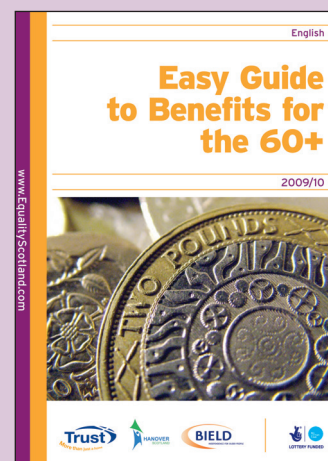


Aisha Nadeem

Aisha won in the category of *Innovation and Dynamism* and was recognised for her work as a Pension Benefit Outreach Worker. Aisha was praised for her work with "Hard to Reach" BME Older people whom she helped to access pension benefits and the services to which they were entitled. Her work helped older BME people to overcome numerous barriers and increased their confidence and self-esteem.

Easy Guide to Benefits updated with new payment amounts

A Multi-lingual Easy Guide to Benefits updated with new benefit data for year 2009/10 is now available on our www.EqualityScotland.com website



Equal Opportunities Programme joins major European forum

Rohini Sharma Joshi, Housing Equal Opportunities Manager, attended the European Good Practice Exchange Forum which specialises in issues related to Active Ageing of Migrant Elders in Europe.

She took part in the Forum's first Exchange Programme held in Germany in May. A total of 10 invited guests from different European countries as well as officials shared their experiences

concerning migrant elders with the aim of improving services across Europe by learning from each other.

The European project is in the process of developing a Good Practice booklet to provide information on variety of projects, initiatives and services for and by migrant elders across Europe and the Equal Opportunities Programme will submit details of its projects.

10th anniversary conference

This is an exciting year for the "Equal Opportunities Programme" as we mark our 10th anniversary with the first ever national BME Older People's Conference in Scotland.

The conference, which will highlight our achievements, will be hosted in association with the Age and Older People department of the Scottish Government, in autumn of this year.

In the last decade the Programme has helped and supported many older people and young people from BME communities via different innovative projects. Some of the people who have been helped by the project will appear in a short celebratory film to be shown at the conference.

Highlights of the forthcoming event will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

CAPTURING PRECIOUS MEMORIES OF AN OLDER GENERATION

The Equal Opportunities Memories Project is currently collating the memories of individuals who arrived from a number of overseas countries in the 20th century.

The project will record the hardships and fears they experienced when they first arrived and it will also celebrate their achievements and treasured moments. We aim to preserve their memories for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Sample of the stories will be presented to the funders for the idea to be developed further. We will keep you informed on the progress on this project.

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A fond farewell to Equal Opportunities Team Members

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to several team members who have left their posts.

Tamiko Mackie, Happy To Translate Logo Development Officer moved on after five years work on the initiative. Tamiko was the first officer employed by the initiative and we thank her for her important contribution in developing the initiative from concept to successful implementation.

We also bid farewell to Rana Sallam, Shubham Sikka, Gaurav Bakshi and Clare Dolan. We thank them for their short but valuable contributions to the work of the Equal Opportunities Programme.

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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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