

Equality Scotland Housing for Older People

Equal Opportunities scoops Community Champion award for Housing

Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations' joint **Equal Opportunities Programme** has won a prestigious "Community Champions - Housing" award in the Scottish Minority Ethnic Achievement Awards 2010.

The award, which was sponsored by Glasgow Housing Association, was presented to Rohini Sharma Joshi, Housing Equal Opportunities Manager, at a ceremony held on Friday 25 June at the Hilton hotel in Glasgow and attended by Alex Neil MSP, Minister for Housing and Communities.



Rohini at the award ceremony

MSPs show support for Equal Opportunities at Holyrood

MSPs have expressed their interest in and support for the work of the Equal Opportunities Programme following a successful information display at the Scottish Parliament in March 2010.

An information stand at the Parliament contained information on all of the Programme's key projects and the stand was sponsored by Sandra White MSP.

Rohini Sharma Joshi said: "We were very pleased with the interest expressed

in our work by so many MSP's across all parties. We would like to thank those who took time to visit our stand and to learn more about the equality work being carried out by the associations' programme. The MSPs want to be kept informed about our projects and we will do this as part of our ongoing efforts to forge effective partnerships with the Scottish Parliament." (Photographs on centre pages.)

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Happy To Translate Celebrates Membership Boost & Funding

The Happy to Translate (HTT) initiative has chalked up fresh success by growing its membership base to 43 members and securing National Lottery funding to create a training DVD.

HTT has signed its first utility contractors, City Warm and City Technical and also welcomed on board a further five new members including: LINK Group; Servite Housing Association; Voice of Carers Across Lothian (VOCAL); Lochaber Housing Association; and Provanhall Housing Association.

The new membership boost follows a highly successful joint launch event by HTT members Ochil View and Forth Housing Associations.

The HTT project has received funding from the National Lottery Awards for All which will be used to produce a training DVD. It will ensure all frontline staff have the skills

and confidence needed to deal with people with a language barrier.

The HTT team has appointed Dawn Abbott to the post of Policy and Operations Officer. Dawn will support members on the implementation of HTT tools, as well as monitoring and evaluating service delivery. Dawn who has extensive experience in project management, learning and procurement, joined the team in April.

For further information on Happy to Translate, please contact:

Katrina McEntegart
Development & Marketing Officer
0131 444 4997

Dawn Abbott
Operations & Policy Officer
0131 444 4997



Launch in Stirling

Older People Services Development Project Extends Reach

The Older People Services Development Project is extending its work into more regions across Scotland in order to help even more older people from ethnic minority communities to successfully claim benefits and services.

The highly successful project, which is in its third year, has conducted more than **600** benefit checks to date and raised benefits and entitlements worth some **£445,000**. This achievement has delivered significant improvements in the living standards of many families, providing a much needed boost to household finances during a difficult economic climate.

This year the project will extend its services further north to Aberdeen, Morayshire and the Highlands as well as further west to Ayr, Irvine and nearby areas as part of a concerted effort to engage with as many hard to reach communities as possible.

The project co-ordinators continue to hold surgeries in partnership with day care centres and community organisations in the selected areas. Information on these surgeries is advertised within local communities.

If you are 60+ or know someone who may benefit from our services, no matter where they



Falkirk information event

live in Scotland, we are able to help. Please contact Neeru (0131 444 4952) or Anthony (0131 444 4941) for an appointment.

DON'T DELAY, CLAIM TODAY!!!!!!



LOTTERY FUNDED

Equal Opportunities Programme exhibits in the Scottish Parliament. Photographs of MSP's who visited our information stand in February 2010.

www.EqualityScotland.com



Sandra White MSP - Glasgow (Sponsor)



Andy Kerr MSP - East Kilbride



Dave Thomson MSP - Highlands and Islands



Ian Mckee MSP - Lothians



Annabel Goldie MSP - West of Scotland



Hugh O'Donnell MSP - Central Scotland



Bill Butler MSP - Glasgow Anniesland



Alison McInnes MSP - North East Scotland



Tom McCabe MSP - Hamilton South



Rt Hon Jack McConnell MSP - Motherwell and Wishaw



Jackie Bailie MSP - Dumbaron



Johann Lamont MSP - Glasgow Pollok



Margaret Mitchell MSP - Central Scotland

Margaret Curran MSP - Glasgow Baillieston



Jim Tolson MSP - Dunfermline West



Sarah Boyack MSP - Edinburgh Central



Shirely Anne Sommerville MSP - Lothians

Job Opportunities Support Project Forges New Links

The Job Opportunities Support Project has made further progress in boosting employment opportunities for black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities by developing new partnerships and adding more specialist services and events for people seeking help and advice on obtaining jobs.

The project, which carries out a key liaison role between BME communities and employers, has developed further links with community organisations and agencies working in a similar field, including becoming involved in the City of Edinburgh Councils – Public Sector Academy, 'Get On' initiative.

Major employers including Lothian & Borders Police and City of Edinburgh Council as well as Skills Development Scotland were among those who attended a popular special 'Job Information Day' organised by the project at the Blue Drill Hall in Leith, Edinburgh.

The project provides guidance and support to BME individuals geared at helping them to secure paid employment and also works closely with employers to arrange work placements which offer an opportunity to gain valuable experience for trainees, new skills, increased confidence and a valid reference.

The Project has assessed 90 individuals so far and provided them with support in seeking work and work experience. As the project has gained momentum it is receiving an increased number of referrals from organisations, via word of mouth and other means.

Previous clients are also still in contact with the project and are receiving ongoing support while two people have secured jobs through the project.

If you know someone who could benefit from the project please contact:

**Nasreen Amjad (0131 444 4953)
Job Opportunities Development Officer**



Chance To Reshape Care Policies For Older People

The Scottish Government, NHS and Scotland's Local Authorities are seeking views on the kind of care which should be provided for older people in Scotland in future, offering an opportunity to influence the shape of future care services.

They are canvassing the views of people who use care services, unpaid carers and voluntary and charitable organisations via an initiative called "Reshaping Care for Older People."

The backdrop to the consultation exercise is an ageing population in Scotland which means that 25% more older Scots will need some form of care in just the next six years. This could involve help with health or mobility issues, household tasks, staying in touch with other people or just getting out and about.

This kind of help is normally delivered through the care system, including care provision in a hospital, a care home, someone's own home or in the community. It is important that Scotland ensures that it can provide affordable and appropriate care for older citizens in future and therefore needs to plan future service provision accordingly.

'Reshaping Care for Older People' have set up a number of ways that you can have your say in how to create fair and appropriate care services.

Please visit the website at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/reshaping
Or write, email or phone the Reshaping Care Team on 0131 244 4020.

Self-Directed Support (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Government has been consulting on proposals to bring forward a bill which will provide the legislative framework so more people can manage their own support.

The Bill will help to set the framework to encourage the growth of self-directed support, including direct payments, so that they can become a mainstream option for social care and support. This is part of a wider agenda to promote greater personalisation of service so that citizens and citizens' needs and outcomes are at the heart of public service. Public services, including social care and support, need to continue the work to design services to meet the needs of individuals and to put people in control.

Self-directed Support will not be the preferred option for everyone and any new legislation will

not affect access to local authority arranged services. In addition, the Bill will set out options other than direct payments for those who do not want to take responsibility for handling the budget but still want to exercise choice and control.

We will provide an update on the Bill in the next issue of our newsletter.

For further information on the Bill and access the consultation documents go to:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/23102019/0.

You can also email the Adult Care and Support Division, Scottish Government at selfdirectsupport@scotland.gsi.gov.uk phone 0131 244 5455.

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Wah Kin Project Offers Help On Mental Health Issues

Older Chinese people living in the north and west of Glasgow will benefit from the Equally Connected Wah Kin Project which is working in partnership with primary care mental health services on ways to increase accessibility of primary care mental health services to people aged 50 and over.

The Wah Kin Project which is aimed specifically at the Chinese community will look at what kind of life problems affect older Chinese people, how they cope with them and what services they use. It will also examine any barriers they face in asking for or receiving help.

The project's findings will be used to form the development of responsive and culturally appropriate supports and services to improve the mental health and well-being of older people from the Chinese community.

For further information about the Wah Kin Project, please contact Kate Langmead, Development Lead for Mental Health and Well-being in Later Life at Glasgow Association for Mental Health, St Andrews by the Green, 33 Turnbull Street, Glasgow G1 5PR. Tel: 0141 552 5592. Email: k.langmead@gamh.org.uk.

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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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