

Equality Scotland Housing for Older People

Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year

DUNDEE INFORMATION EVENT ATTRACTS STRONG SUPPORT FROM LOCAL BME COMMUNITY

The Equal Opportunities Team held a very successful Information Event for Black & Minority Ethnic Communities on the 13th October in the Ardlar Centre in Dundee which attracted a strong turnout.

Rohini Sharma Joshi, Housing Equal Opportunities Manager, welcomed attendees from the local community and introduced Lord Provost of Dundee John Letford, who expressed his commitment to older people and support for the work of the Equal Opportunities Team.

Director of Social Work for Dundee City Council, Alan Baird, outlined the challenges faced by social work teams as a result of the ageing population. He also outlined provisions made to ensure older people are not disadvantaged by language barriers.

Servite Housing Association, whose Housing Services Director Tim Calderbank was also a speaker at the event, has recently enrolled as a member of the Happy to Translate initiative. He provided information on the services provided by Servite, which has offices in Dundee, Perth

and Inverness, and outlined the ways in which the association serves the local community.

Rohini spoke of the work being done by the Happy to Translate team and displayed the easily recognisable logo, explaining to the audience what they can expect from Happy to Translate organisations.

This informal event attracted around 120 individuals from the local BME communities and provided an opportunity for individuals to network, enjoy a multi-ethnic buffet lunch, and gather information about the service providers represented which included:

- Bield Housing Association
- Care & Repair Scotland
- Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)
- Dundee City Council (Social Work)
- Happy to Translate
- Equal Opportunities Programme
- The Pension Service
- Servite Housing Association
- Tayside Fire & Rescue
- Tax Help for Older People (TOP)

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Dundee Event



left to right: Tom Jamieson, Communication Officer, Servite. Tim Calderbank, Director, Servite. Nicola Marcus, Corporate Services Manger, Servite. Rohini Sharma Joshi, Housing Equal Opportunities Manager.



Dundee Lord Provost John Letford with two members of the local community.



Speeches being held at the Event.

Equality Scotland Housing for

Older People Services project hits £500,000 plus milestone in benefits raised

The Older People Services Development Project has reached a significant milestone in generating more than £500,000 of benefits and entitlements for its clients and is extending its influence by expanding into new territories across Scotland.

The project, which works with older people from BME communities, has successfully helped hundreds of people to maximise their income and to improve their quality of life.

The project, which is nearing the end of its third year, has conducted more than 740 benefit checks for clients to date and achieved benefits and entitlements totalling some £570,000.

This outcome has delivered huge improvements in the living standards and financial situations of many families, and has deepened their understanding of their rights and entitlement both means-tested and health-related. The project's staff has also helped clients to access schemes to improve safety within their homes and also to upgrade heating systems, making their homes warmer, greener and more comfortable.

The project will extend its services to rural areas of Scotland so that more hard-to-reach BME older people will benefit from its specialist support service. The project co-ordinators continue to hold surgeries in partnership with day care centres and community organisations in 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 live in Scotland, we are able to help.

Please contact one of our older people services co-ordinator Neeru Bhatnager (0131 444 4952) or Anthony Li Chu (0131 444 4941) for an appointment.

***DON'T DELAY,
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LOTTERY FUNDED



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

Launches new look website

Happy to Translate launched its newly designed website on November 1 in a move which was well-received by service users. The website will be an important source of information for both HTT Members and the public alike.

The Members Only section contains important information on the tools and procedures which facilitate first contact with members of the public whose first language is not English. The website is recognised as a valuable part of the HTT portfolio of tools.

Membership of HTT continues to grow with an additional six members recruited since our last bulletin, including: Care & Repair Scotland; Barrhead Housing Association; Easthall Park Housing Association; Gardeen Housing Association; Lochfield Housing Association; and its first joinery contractor, SJM Joiners (Scotland).

For further information on Happy to Translate, please contact:

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Development & Marketing Officer
Tel: 0131 444 4951
Email: kmcentegart@trustha.org.uk

Dawn Abbott
Operations & Policy Officer
Tel: 0131 444 4997
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Or visit our website: www.happytotranslate.com



The HTT team has also developed two new tools: a training DVD and a Field Toolkit, both of which will lend further assistance to organisations whose services users do not speak English as a first language. The team is also working on a poster for member organisations and leaflets aimed at communities, both of which are designed to raise awareness of HTT.



New member Servite Housing Association attended a recent information event for BME Communities in Dundee in October at which Housing Services Director Tim Calderbank was a guest speaker. Lara Allan, Community Liaison Officer said: "Everyone seemed to be very positive about the day and for us this was a great benefit as we had this opportunity to work with others to benefit our communities."

Job Opportunities Project forges new partnership links to boost employment access



Attendees at the Job Opportunities Discussion Day

The Job Opportunities Support Project has developed new partnerships and links with community organisations and agencies as part of its ongoing drive to increase access to job opportunities for people from BME communities.

As well as providing guidance and support to BME individuals seeking paid employment, the Project works closely with employers to arrange work placements which provide valuable work experience for trainees, giving them new skills, increased confidence and references. Placements arranged via the project have been very successful with positive outcomes for both trainees and employers. More employers are encouraged to take advantage of the placement services on offer.

The project recently organised a discussion group with clients to seek feedback and to involve them in service planning. The group discussed external factors which may have a bearing on their current

situation particularly the impact of the difficult economic climate and government budget cutbacks. It also focused on assessing customer satisfaction and suggestions for potential improvement to the Project. Client feedback has resulted in running monthly drop-in sessions for one-to-one support and guidance.

The Project has assessed 120 individuals and provided them with support and 25 people have secured employment through the project. Referrals have been received directly from organisations, via word-of-mouth, and self-referral. A further nine placements have been organised to date, with Lothian & Borders Police, Link Living, Hanover (Scotland) and various other organisations. Arrangements are in place with employers for further placements to help break down barriers and create job opportunities.

The Project continues to build on its previous success by ensuring support services are relevant to the needs of BME people. If you know someone who could benefit from the project please contact:

Nasreen Amjad
Job Opportunities Development Officer
on 0131 444 4953 or
namjad@trustha.org.uk or visit our
website:

www.EqualityScotland.com



Equal Opportunities team raises funds for Pakistan flood victims

Members of the Equal Opportunities team and their colleagues at Trust Housing Association have raised funds to help victims of the flood disaster in Pakistan by holding a multicultural feast at their headquarters.

Staff raised a total of £230 through the sale of homemade Indian and Chinese snacks to colleagues from Trust and also neighbouring housing associations.

The money raised has been donated to the Ucare Foundation, a Scottish charity based in Glasgow, which aims to construct 700 houses for people whose homes were destroyed by the flooding in Pakistan.

Rohini Sharma Joshi, Housing Equal Opportunities Manager, said: "Our staff was delighted to be able to do something practical to help people affected by the Pakistan floods. As a



Flood devastation in Pakistan at its worst

housing association we were particularly keen to help a project which is geared at providing much needed shelter for people who have lost their homes."

Heavy rainfall during the monsoon period caused widespread flooding across Pakistan. According to Pakistan government data the floods directly affected some 20 million people, destroying their homes, property and livelihoods.



Flood Fundraising Day

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 came into force from 10 October 2010.

The Act introduces the concept of “protected characteristics”. People cannot be discriminated against on the basis of these characteristics, either directly or indirectly. The protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

It will require the organisation to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

BME older people take part in strategy discussions on Reshaping Care

The Equal Opportunities Programme facilitated a consultation event for BME older people and staff from community organisations across Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government as part of the public engagement process on the Reshaping Care for Older People strategy.

The event, which took place at the Dementia Services Development Centre in Stirling, was attended by Scottish Government officials who met members of BME communities to identify and discuss issues relating to care needs and

how these should be met in the future.

The meeting was very successful with over 40 people taking part in discussion groups. A report has been produced from feedback on the event and is available on the Scottish Government website

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/reshaping

Further info is available from the Reshaping Care Team on 0131 244 4020

Reshaping Care Discussion Day



Older People

NKS Awards



Mrs Saroj Lal picking up her Lifetime Achievement Award.

An award event to Celebrate South Asian Women's Achievements was held on Wednesday 24th November 2010 organised by Nari Kallyan Shangho (NKS). We were delighted to sponsor the **Lifetime Achievement** award. This award was given to celebrate the achievement of women who have made extraordinary contributions to their local communities over a period of time. Mrs Saroj Lal picked up the award on the night for her life contribution to the communities.

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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.EquityScotland.com
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