

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS RECEIVE £56,000 FUNDING for PENSION OUTREACH PROJECT

Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations are pleased to announce they have received grant funding from **The Pension Service Partnership Fund**.

The Pension Service (part of the Department of Work and Pensions) created the fund to improve the take up of pension benefits by older people throughout the United Kingdom. The remit of the Associations' successful proposal is to encourage benefit take up by Black and Minority Ethnic older people in Scotland.

A **Pension Benefit Outreach Worker** will be joining the Equal Opportunities team, working under the guidance of the Housing Equal Opportunities Manager. The Outreach Worker will visit Black and Minority Ethnic communities throughout Scotland to assess the benefit entitlement of "hard to reach" older people, and work closely with local Pension Service offices.

The project will start in May or June 2005 and continue for 18 months. If you know someone who could benefit from free advice and benefit assessment, please contact us. Please take advantage of this opportunity and tell others about it. Remember, advice is free.

Contact: Rohini Sharma at 0131 225 7246 or rsharma@trustha.org.uk



L-R: SFHA Chief Executive David Orr, Rohini Sharma and TV personality Tom O'Connor

ROHINI SHARMA RECEIVES SFHA's "HOUSING SCOTLAND" AWARD

The Associations are proud to announce that their Housing Equal Opportunities Manager, Rohini Sharma, has been awarded the inaugural Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) "Housing Scotland" Award.

The theme of the award was "**Excellence in Innovation**" and recognised Rohini's "pro-active and energetic approach" to race awareness and equal opportunities, particularly for older people.

The award presentation was made at the SFHA Conference dinner in November in Edinburgh. Other short listed nominees recognised at the event were Ochil View Housing Association and The Homehunt Lettings Service. The award trophy presented to Rohini was commissioned from the Gorbals Arts Project in Glasgow.

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EqualityScotland.com NEW MULTILINGUAL WEBSITE

In keeping with our commitment to encourage access to information, the Associations' multi-lingual Equal Opportunities website has been launched. For information on Housing, Employment, Events and more visit **www.EqualityScotland.com**. In addition to English, information is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. Please visit the site and let us have your comments on our services.



PROPOSED JOB SUPPORT PROJECT for BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

The Associations have submitted a funding application to develop a **Job Opportunities Support Project for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities** in Edinburgh and the Lothians. The application was submitted to Communities Scotland's "Wider Role Programme," and Capital City Partnership's "Joined Up for Jobs - Edinburgh's Employability Agreement."

If the application is successful, the project will employ a Job Opportunities Development Officer to support Black and Minority Ethnic individuals through the process of searching for a job (including where to look for jobs, completing application forms, preparing for interviews, etc.). The project will also liaise with housing and public sector employers to encourage the creation of work placements and employment opportunities.

We will keep you informed of the outcome of our application!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FAIR REPORT PUBLISHED



The Associations, in partnership with the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland, have published a report, **"Moving Forward: Job Opportunities Fair for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities : Outcomes, Findings & Recommendations."**

The report provides an analysis of surveys completed by employers and job seekers at the Job Opportunities Fair held in Edinburgh in June 2004. The report makes recommendations on how employers can address barriers faced by Black and Minority Ethnic people when seeking job opportunities, particularly in finding jobs appropriate to their qualifications and abilities.

View the report at **www.EqualityScotland.com** (click on "Publications") or contact Rohini or Tamiko at 0131 225 7246 for a copy.

“HAPPY TO TRANSLATE” LOGO SELECTED BY SCOTLAND’S COMMUNITIES

The Associations are pleased to announce that after an extensive survey, Scotland’s communities have chosen the official “Happy to Translate” Logo. The winning Logo (a smiling face in a speech bubble) received an overwhelming majority vote from amongst three very different design choices.

In response to detailed feedback given in the surveys, the Logo Steering Group took a decision to add a second face to the design to emphasise positive communication between people.

From August to October 2004, the survey (produced in English and eight community languages) was completed by hundreds of people during visits to community organisations and events, and in consultation with support staff and translation and interpreting professionals.

In addition to determining the winning design, the survey revealed primary data which mirrors pre-existing research and reinforces the necessity of overcoming language barriers to create equal access to information and services. A detailed analysis of the survey results and key findings will be published.

The chosen Logo will be rolled out in spring 2005 with the launch of pilot programmes with public sector organisations including The City of Edinburgh Council, Moray Council, Lothian and Borders Police, and Trust, Hanover (Scotland) & Bield Housing Associations. The Logo Steering Group consists of these pilot organisations and the funders (the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland).

Thank you to the individuals and organisations that participated in the survey and supported its success!

For more information go to www.EqualityScotland.com or contact Tamiko Mackie, at 0131 225 7246 or tmackie@trustha.org.uk.



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE



Glasgow School of English students completing the “Happy to Translate” survey

FIFE HOUSING EQUALITY GROUP: NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATING

Several housing associations in Fife got together to organise an event on 26th October at Rothes Halls in Glenrothes: **“We Are Ready to Listen and We Are Ready to Act.”**

The event provided a platform for housing associations to network with Black and Minority Ethnic communities. It featured wonderful entertainment and good food!

Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations supported and participated in the organisation of this event.



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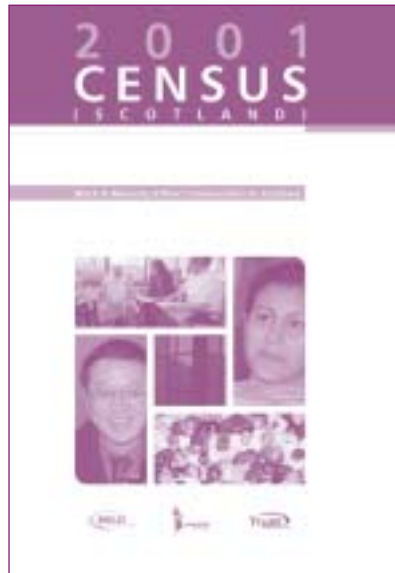
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2001 CENSUS (SCOTLAND) REPORT PUBLISHED



As required under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, and Communities Scotland's Performance Standards, the Associations have produced their analysis report on the 2001 Census (Scotland).

The report has two parts – "Older People" and "Employment." The information contained in the report will help identify gaps in service and set targets to improve service provision.

The report has been produced for the Associations' internal use, but a copy will be made available to community organisations upon request. Additionally, the report is posted on www.EqualityScotland.com.

A CITY FOR ALL AGES - TODAY & TOMORROW

"A City for All Ages" is Edinburgh's plan for older people. Its purpose is to improve opportunities and services and remove barriers so that by 2010, Edinburgh will truly be a city for all ages. The vision has an action plan with 21 aims to help achieve these goals.

A leaflet called "Today & Tomorrow" is being produced in English and community languages, and will contain a summary of the work involved in the action plan.

Contact: Glenda Watt at The City of Edinburgh Council on 0131 469 3937

LOOKING FORWARD TO...

The 2nd Annual **JOB OPPORTUNITIES FAIR** for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities will be held in **GLASGOW** on Saturday 11th June 2005. Go to EqualityScotland.com for details.

OPEN SURGERIES

Advice and information on housing for older people, and job opportunities with the three Associations, continues to be available. If you would like an Open Surgery to be held within your organisation, please contact Rohini to arrange a time, date and location.



This newsletter is a joint publication by **Trust** (formerly Kirk Care), **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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