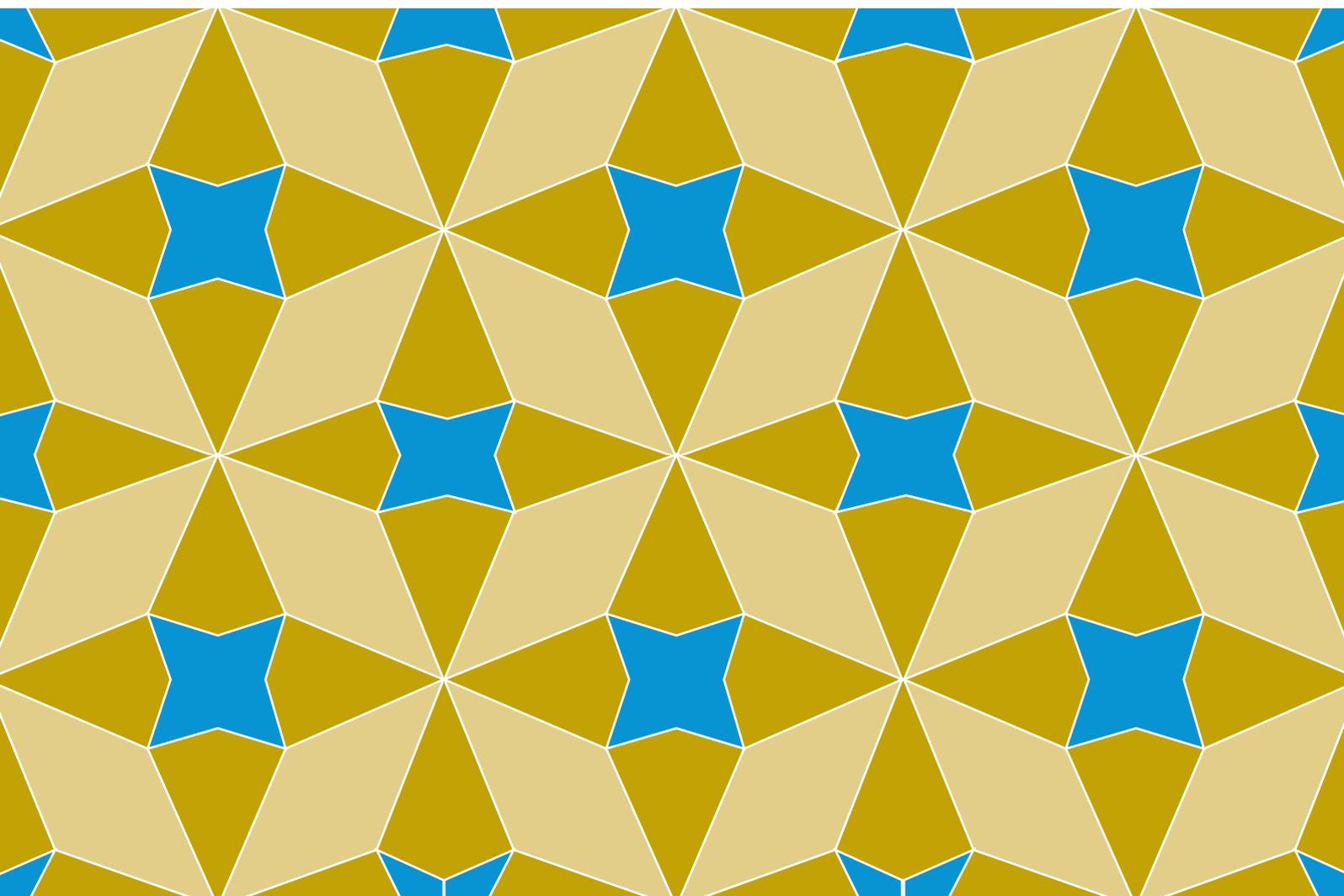


YOUR VOICE

JUNE 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM PROJECT

NORTH SOMERSET



WELCOME

Welcome to the latest newsletter:

We aim to combine news and details of forthcoming events with important information about organisations and services within North Somerset.

If you have an event to publicise – or if you have views about what we should be including in the newsletter – please get in touch.

THIRD FORUM MEETING

The most recent meeting of the North Somerset Black and minority ethnic Forum was held in Weston on 26th April and was addressed by Louise Branch from North Somerset Council who spoke about domestic abuse (see article below). There was some interesting discussion following Louise's talk and the clear message was that people should not suffer in silence.

The Forum went on to talk about building the steering committee and co-opting new members so that the various ethnic groups in North Somerset are represented. The steering committee will work on developing a constitution for the Forum with a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Topics for future meetings were discussed. Questionnaires had gone out to all Forum members and a range of ideas have been put forward which will be looked at for future meetings. We may try to combine a theme for Forum meetings - such as housing, health or employment – with articles in this newsletter.

One event which is being arranged is a visit to the CCTV suite in Weston and a talk on community safety and hate crime in July. There is only room for 20 people in the CCTV room, so get in touch NOW if you're interested! We'll have full details shortly.

AIDS AND HIV

Did you know that North Somerset has one of the highest incidences of HIV/AIDs in the country at more than twice the national average? It is not a topic that people generally feel comfortable talking about but one that we should all be aware of. North Somerset Council are responsible for raising awareness and providing care for people living with HIV and AIDS. The Council commissions services with AIDs-specific grant money from a number of sources:

The Brigstowe Project is a charity working exclusively with people living with HIV. They manage houses and flats owned by Registered Social Landlords. They provide advice on housing related issues and floating support to people, some of whom are funded by Supporting People. They also provide an information and advice service for people either living with HIV or affected by HIV. They will support with emotional issues and how this may affect housing, income, employment, immigration and nationality issues.

The contact number is 01179 415188.

Terrence Higgins Trust [West] is also commissioned by the Authority. Although Bristol-based they will supply the following services in the N/S area: buddying, counselling, complementary therapies, welfare rights information, advocacy, legal rights, immigration and asylum issues. They will also supply HIV awareness training.

The contact number is 01179 551000

North Somerset Council works in partnership with;

The Wish Centre. Weston General Hospital.

Clinic Opening Times.: Mon-9.30-12.30

1.30-3.00 after 3.00 under 21 years.

Tues.2.00-5.00

6.00-8.30 Specialist Contraception.

Wed. 9.00-12.30

6.30-8.30 Specialist Contraception.

Thur & Fri 9.00-12.30

The GP/Nurse Advice is 01934 881233

Appointments 01934 881234

Also anyone can contact Care Connect

01275 888801 to be referred to adult care teams

For more information contact Teresa Stone, Service Coordinator on 01934 427397



MUSIC AND DANCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD 2007

Saturday, 7 July, 12-8 pm & Sunday, 8 July, 12-5 pm

The North Somerset Play Forum is a registered charity, which promotes play throughout North Somerset and organizes events and activities for children and for families. One of the main annual events it organizes, working in partnership with the Ranger Service, is Music and Dance from Around the World, which is a wonderfully friendly multicultural festival, which is held each summer in Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare.

This year's festival has a brilliant array of music and dance from local, national and international performers. One of the most exciting and rare performances will be by Baka Beyond and Baka Gbine. Baka Beyond play a unique blend of African and Celtic music and

are strongly influenced by the music of the Baka People from the Congolese rainforest, who have their own band, Baka Gbine. At this year's festival, the two groups will be playing together, so don't miss this amazing opportunity to enjoy their music!

Another stunning performance will be by internationally renowned dancer Ni Made Pujawati, with two distinctive Balinese dances – and, by popular demand, 'Elvis' will be returning, to bring the festival to a dazzling finish on Sunday!

There will be a variety of arts and crafts activities for children and stalls and refreshments.



Admission is free, so do come along and have a wonderful weekend – and discover all the talented and interesting people who live in North Somerset!

Quita Allender, North Somerset Play Forum, tel: 01934 844353

www.playforum.org.uk



LIBRARIES

You can now go to your library – or go online at home – and search for books, CDs, DVDs, videos and printed music across Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucestershire library services as well as North Somerset. You can renew your loans, view and cancel reservations and update your library account details via the LibrariesWest website (www.librarieswest.org.uk) please ask the library for your pin. This means that you can make use of a much larger collection of material and you are more likely to be able to find some books or music in your own first language or familiar culture. Bookstart packs for children are available in other languages. All libraries have free internet/email and the ability to change PC terminals to another language. You can ask the library to get in books which are in your language, and leaflets in other languages can be requested for you. Staff are there to be helpful and friendly!

OPPORTUNITY FOR TRUSTEES OF VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

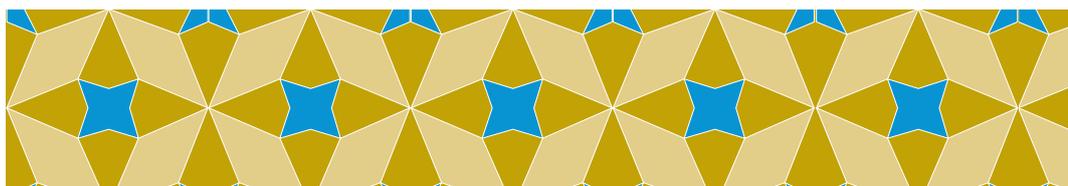


A fantastic new opportunity has arrived for Chairpersons and Treasurers of North Somerset's voluntary and community sector to come together, exchange ideas and share information.

Participants will be invited to join one of two networks, one for Chairpersons and one for Treasurers. Each group will meet quarterly and will also receive regular updates on legislation and initiatives relevant to trustees of the Third Sector. Training will be provided on a range of issues relating to trusteeship including roles and responsibilities, governance, and financial management.

Both networks are being arranged by Voluntary Action North Somerset and are funded by the Change Up programme to help local groups grow stronger and deliver more effective services.

Interested trustees are invited to contact Justin Parsons on 01934 410192, email justin@nsva.org.uk, or write to him at The Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1JY.





NORTH SOMERSET

HOUSING SUPPORTED HOUSING SERVICES

DOMESTIC ABUSE CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

One in four women and one in six men will live with domestic abuse at some point in their lives. (Figures from Council of Europe 2002) It doesn't just mean physical abuse, but can be emotional, financial and sexual. It can happen to anyone regardless of education, income, sex or race. However, some communities are more likely to report it than others.

In North Somerset the Domestic Abuse Forum is working to provide services to those who experience domestic abuse and to encourage anyone who is living with abuse, or who knows someone who may be, to report it.

The Forum has recently produced a strategy which makes it clear that domestic abuse is taken seriously in North Somerset and that agencies intend to do something about it.

The strategy has a series of action plans which were developed after extensive consultation over a year.

These are:

- Improving ways of working together
- Provision of advocacy and crisis services for those escaping abuse
- Specialist children's workers
- Children's services and activities
- Working to stop people committing domestic abuse

If you would like to see a copy of the strategy contact Louise Branch, Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator email louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk tel 01275 888355

If you, or someone you know, is living with abuse contact:

- DAFFs freephone helpline 0800 69 49 999,
- The Police Domestic Abuse Investigation Team 01934 638110
- Visit www.endabuse.org.uk

Remember: domestic abuse is a crime and is everybody's business. **If someone you know is living with abuse report it:** your help may save their life.

North Somerset Housing's Supported Housing Services comprises of three teams: - Sheltered Support services, Temporary Accommodation and Support services and Floating Support services.

As a generic floating support service we do not specialise in one particular client group, offering short term (up to 2 years) housing related support to vulnerable people living in North Somerset i.e. owner occupiers, other housing association tenants and those who rent privately. We are funded by Supporting People which means we can deliver this service free of charge.

There are a range of issues we cover including budgeting /benefit/debt advice and support, repair issues, accessing funds through charities, accessing specialist services in the community e.g. CAB, legal services, places of worship, support to establish and set up a tenancy, issues with current tenancies. We offer support to make applications for alternative housing, whether it be move on for greater independence or accommodation for service users requiring higher levels of support, to support to initially familiarise with a new area and accessing amenities ie Department of Work and Pensions, library, doctors etc, to arrange for adaptations to cater for disability, help completing forms such as housing and council tax forms, support to arrange clients own occupation advice on training, employment and leisure.

How to apply: Via a referral form, referred by another agency or self referral. This is followed by an assessment of need.

How to contact us:

North Somerset Housing,
Floating Support Service 503
Parkway, Worle,
Weston-super -Mare,
Somerset, BS22 6WA

Phone: 01934 523800
Fax: 01934 524799

Mission Statement:
To deliver a responsive
client led support service to
maximise potential and create
opportunity



To contact us phone 01934 414455, email: bmeproject@srec.org.uk
or write to us at Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1JY

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