

Strengthening BME Empowerment and Representation in East Sussex

SpeakUp Forum East Sussex

Aims

Access to Information & Dialogue

To increase knowledge and links between organisations representing diverse communities and other VCS and public sector agencies.

To provide platforms where voice of BME communities and those working with them can be heard by service providers.

Project

- Strengthening relationship with BME organisations
- Building up on feedback and priorities from events in 2009
- **Compact Focus Group**, October 2009
- **Safer Communities Workshop**, February 2010
- **Adults & Older People Workshop**, March 2010
- **BME and Migrant Communities Conference**,
Autumn 2010

The Workshops

- Themed (focused) discussions
- Access to direct, practical information, explained simply
- Opportunity to speak directly to senior staff
- Opportunity to provide streamed feedback to service providers (group discussion)
 - Is the access to services good enough?
 - What works and what changes are needed?
 - Way forward and what role could you or your organisation play?
- Sharing the learning from the workshops with other agencies

Feedback

"Very, very interesting, with answers to some questions that members of my forum ask."

"It was really great because everyone had the chance to speak and even small comments were taken on board."

"I was able to identify and discuss different problems and issues."

"Excellent way to share thoughts and opinions."

"It was a fantastic experience".



Photos by Jol Grus and Tony Kalume

Lessons learned

- ❑ Don't ask the same questions (learn from previous engagement)
- ❑ Integrate not segregate
- ❑ Provide information in simple English and key other languages
- ❑ Employ staff or support volunteers from diverse communities
- ❑ Create networking spaces with access to number of information
- ❑ Provide opportunity for dialogue with senior staff

Contact

www.askcasper.org.uk/speakup/bme

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Working with BME organisation

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