

## MRSN AGM 2011

MRSN Annual General Meeting held on 27th May 2011 and it was well attended by representatives from various refugee community organisations.

The assembly members received the annual report and accounts of the organisation and heard project reports from the acting manager on the achievements of the organisation over the past year, showing how MRSN has developed and the challenge ahead.

MRSN values the continued service of its management committee and welcomes re-elected and new members

Addisu Tewelde – Chair

Method Nguimby – Vice chair

Angela N.K Kaleta – Secretary

Kidane Gebretatos – Treasurer

Ghirmazion Ghebreyesus – Member

Tendayi Madzunu – Member

Zahid Khan – Member



The committee members are from Ethiopian Community, African francophone Integration Project, Manchester Congolese Organisation, Eritrean Community, Salford Welcome Group, Zimbabwe Women's Organisation and Pakistani Community.

## Deputy Prime Minister declares support for refugees

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg spoke out in support for refugees in the UK, and emphasised the importance of protecting people fleeing persecution and conflict today, 60 years on from the creation of the UN Convention for Refugees.

At the Refugee Council's 60th anniversary celebration in Brixton, Clegg spoke to people from across the refugee charity sector about the strides the coalition government have made since they came to power last year to ensure refugees in the UK get the help they need, including the end of child detention, and ensuring people who are persecuted for their sexual orientation are not deported.

### Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said:

"For my part, we have never shied away from taking the right stance on asylum, even when it has been controversial to do so. Now, in Government, our approach has three key strands: one, sorting out the inefficiency in the system. Two, ending the unfair practices that remain. Three, acting internationally to help as many refugees as we can.

"A country like the UK should be aiming for nothing less than the most compassionate, efficient, dignified asylum system in the world."

In his closing remarks he added:

"I hope our first year shows that we, like you, want to reaffirm the UK's place as a caring and compassionate nation. No one should ever be forced from their home. But when it happens they must know that nations like ours will provide the safety and security all people deserve. That's a promise we made 60 years ago. It is important today as it was then."

Source: Refugee Council

## Ethnic population in Greater Manchester districts

A breakdown of the ethnic population in each local authority district in England and Wales has been published by the Office for National Statistics.

According to the ONS figures, the non-white British population has grown from 6.6 million in 2001 to 9.1 million in 2009 – or nearly one in six.

The white British population has stayed the same, while there has been a rise in the 'other white' population from 1.4 million to 1.9 million, and an increase of 50 per cent in the mixed-race population from 672,000 in 2001 to 986,600 in 2009.

The proportion of white British people in Greater Manchester is just over 83 per cent – virtually the same as the proportion for England and Wales as a whole. Nearly 12 per cent of the population in the sub-region is from mixed race or black minority ethnic backgrounds – again, almost on a par with the national figure.

Local Authority	% White British	% Mixed	% Asian or Asian British	% Black or Black British	% Chinese
Bolton	84.42	1.43	9.58	1.24	0.53
Bury	87.19	1.64	5.09	1.20	0.44
Manchester	69.93	3.27	11.20	4.84	1.76
Oldham	80.48	1.60	13.57	1.23	0.32
Rochdale	82.80	1.42	10.94	0.98	0.59
Salford	86.45	1.60	3.29	1.73	0.62
Stockport	89.07	1.59	3.21	1.16	0.60
Tameside	88.86	1.25	5.76	0.93	0.42
Trafford	82.63	2.18	5.43	2.55	1.07
Wigan	94.68	0.82	1.31	0.65	0.29
Greater Manchester	83.57	1.80	7.14	1.93	0.77

Further details, including an interactive map of each local authority area, can be seen on *The Guardian* website:

[www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/may/18/ethnic-population-england-wales](http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/may/18/ethnic-population-england-wales)

[www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2011/may/19/ethnic-breakdown-england-wales](http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2011/may/19/ethnic-breakdown-england-wales)

### Funding

#### Police Property Act Fund

Small grants for voluntary organisations and community groups in Greater Manchester are available from the Police Property Act Fund.

The main aim of the Fund, which is administered by the Police Authority, is to support local projects carried out by groups that benefit the communities of Greater Manchester, especially those which have a positive impact in reducing crime and disorder at a local level. There is a maximum award of £500 per organisation, and money is awarded for specific projects, rather than contributing to a general fund or running costs.

#### The deadline for applications is 8th July 2011.

Final decisions on funding will not be made until October 2011. Application forms and guidance can be obtained by contacting Jenna Lancaster, Fund Administrator, GMPA on 0161 793 2532 or at [info@gmpa.gov.uk](mailto:info@gmpa.gov.uk). Further details of the Fund can also be seen from the link below  
Website: <http://www.gmpa.gov.uk/propertyactfund.htm>

#### BT Community Connection

The BT *Community Connections* scheme has opened for a second 2011 round. The awards scheme is intended to provide voluntary groups and charitable organisations working to benefit the community in the UK with IT equipment and internet access. Successful applicants to the programme will receive a laptop and a year's free broadband internet connection.

In particular, the scheme is keen to target areas of deprivation which normally receive little or no funding and would otherwise have no IT provision.

The award will be 12 months' free connection to BT Business Total Broadband Advance, which includes features described in the standard products and services terms.

The deadline for applications is **15th September 2011** and winners will be notified by 12th November 2011.  
Website: <http://www.btcommunityconnections.com/>

#### Guardian Charity Awards

The annual *Guardian Charity Awards* seek to recognise and encourage small and medium-sized charities that are improving social wellbeing in its broadest sense by delivering practical solutions to present-day problems.

Eligible charities must have been registered in the UK for more than two years and have an annual income of between £5,000 and £1.5 million.

Winners each receive £6,000, one year free NCVO membership and a tailored package of support from the Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI) that includes mentoring, expert advice and training, and a media package from the Media Trust.

The deadline for applications is **15th July 2011**. Website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/charity-awards>

#### United Utilities Trust Fund

Grants to support organisations providing money advice services are available from the United Utilities Trust Fund. The main aims of the Trust are to provide help for people in need and to encourage financial stability and competent money management.

Funding for organisations falls into two categories:

*Project funding* – £60,000 available over two years for projects that fulfil the Trust's criteria;

*Small grants* – up to £1,500.

Only organisations based in the North West are eligible for funding from the Trust.

Further information and details of the funding criteria can be seen via the link below or by contacting the Trust on 0121 321 1324.

Website: <http://www.uutf.org.uk/Index.html>

#### A Day in the Life – Work shadowing scheme

The **National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)** are operating the shadowing scheme **A day in the Life** for workers in the voluntary and community sector to have a day in the life of central government staff. The scheme aims to help each sector see how the other operates, share information and build contacts.

Central government staff will also have the opportunity to shadow in the voluntary and community sector. The scheme will operate during September 2011. Last year over 400 participants took part from a wide range of organisations and four government departments, the **Home Office, DCLG, Defra** and the **Ministry of Justice**.

#### Deadline: 22 July 2011

Website: [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/workshadowing](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/workshadowing)

#### People's Postcode Trust to open again in July

The People's Postcode Trust gives grants from £500 to £10,000 to registered charities to support the following priorities:

- Poverty prevention
- Advancement of health (not research)
- Community development

- Public sports
  - Human rights
  - Environmental protection.
- The next funding rounds for England and Wales are:

Open: 11 July 2011;  
deadline: 26 August 2011

Open: 10 October 2011;  
deadline: 11 November 2011

Contact: Trust Helpdesk  
Telephone: 0131 555 7287  
Email: [info@postcodetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@postcodetrust.org.uk)  
Website: [www.postcodetrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk)

#### Guardian Charity Awards 2011

The Guardian Charity Awards are open to "UK social welfare charities that can demonstrate excellence and achievement in what they do." Charities must have been UK registered for more than two years with an annual income between £5,000 and £1.5 million.

Winning charities will receive £6,000 prize money plus a year's membership of NCVO and a tailored support package.

Deadline: 15 July 2011

Contact: Events Team  
Telephone: 020 3353 4767  
Email: [charityawards@guardian.co.uk](mailto:charityawards@guardian.co.uk)  
Website: [www.guardian.co.uk/charity-awards/2011-criteria](http://www.guardian.co.uk/charity-awards/2011-criteria)

#### Ben Kinsella Fund

As reported in February, the **Ben Kinsella Fund**, through the **Prince's Trust Community Cash Awards**, has been set up for young people aged 14 – 25 in England and Wales to set up projects to tackle anti-gun, knife and gang crime projects in their local area. Grants of up to £3,000 are available to plan and set-up youth-led community projects.

Eligible projects should:

- Promote anti-knife crime messages in schools, colleges or youth clubs
  - Promote positive stories about young people
  - Encourage positive engagement between young people and the police
  - Encourage young people to get involved in their local community.
- The fund is also interested in projects that target girls, children 12 years and under and parents.

The young people applying must be involving or being set up by either:

- Young people aged 14-16, and achieving or at risk of achieving less than five GCSEs grades A\* - C
- Young people aged 16-25, and not in education, training or work (or working less than 16 hours a week)

Contact: The Ben Kinsella Fund at The Prince's Trust  
Telephone: 0800 842 842  
Text: "Call Me" to 07983 385418  
Website: <http://tinyurl.com/3ra3kxf>

## Sheila McKechnie Campaigner Awards 2011

The Sheila McKechnie Campaigner Awards 2011 are now open for applications. The awards offer a support and development package for emerging and grassroots campaigners working across a wide range of issues, aiming to equip them with the skills they need to make a greater impact and achieve real change. There are no cash prizes. The awards are for individuals who are new to campaigning or operating with few resources and who show passion, tenacity and the potential to create change – locally, nationally or globally. There are nine categories. The closing date is Monday 20 June 2011 at 1.00. More details are available from the website: <http://www.smk.org.uk/campaigner-awards/>

## Events

### Refugee World Cup 2011

The Date & Time of Event:

Sat, 25/06/2011 - 10:00 - 16:00

Venue: Manchester Communication Academy, Silchester Drive, Harpurhey, Manchester, M40 8NT

The Manchester Football Association's Refugee World Cup

Saturday 25th June – 10:00 Team

Registration.

Finish time approximately 16:00

- Free team entry and open to a range of nationalities
- Male only for age 16 +
- 7 A side competition – Max squad of 10
- For more information, please contact John Hurst at Manchester FA on 0161 203 2990 or [john.hurst@manchesterfa.com](mailto:john.hurst@manchesterfa.com)

## Job Opportunity

### Office Manager at Manchester Carers Forum

Manchester Carers Forum is an independent charitable organisation registered as a company limited by guarantee. It campaigns on behalf of and advocates for the needs of Carers. Manchester Carers Forum are looking to recruit an energetic and motivated team player for the vacancy of Office Manager. This post is offered initially for one year.

The Office & Administration officer is responsible for the smooth running of the office premises of Manchester Carers Forum, maintaining accurate day to day financial records and the systems essential for the smooth running of the day to day work. A wide ranging

role involving mostly administrative functions, the post requires a completer-finisher who is also a strong team player. For further information and for an application form, contact 0161 819 2226, email: [dave@manchestercarersforum.org.uk](mailto:dave@manchestercarersforum.org.uk), or by post: Manchester Carers Forum, London Scottish House, 24 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 3NN. Hours: 35 hours per week  
Salary: Scale 6 £22,221- £23,708  
**Deadline: Mon, 20/06/2011 (All day)**

### CAMPAIGN – To Recruit Short Break Carers For Disabled Children

A Manchester City Council has joined a national campaign to recruit more short break carers for disabled children. Shared Care Network – a short breaks charity – is running a 'Tell a Friend' campaign, where current carers are being encouraged to spread the message about how valuable their work is for the children they help.

A recent survey by Shared Care Network showed that word of mouth was the way that one in three carers heard about short break care. Currently Manchester has around 30 short break carers for disabled children, but ideally Manchester City Council would like to recruit an additional 10 carers per year. In particular, the council is looking for short break carers for secondary school aged children with autistic spectrum conditions. Potential carers would receive full training and on-going support and would need to be able to offer a minimum of two nights a month to care for a child. They would also need to have a spare bedroom in their home. Councillor Sheila Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services at Manchester City Council, said: "We match carers very carefully to the families and children they help. The experience is very powerful for all: the children involved enjoy new experiences and meet new people, who often become long-term friends. And, crucially, this time off allows the child's parents to have a break, knowing that their child is being looked after in a happy and supportive environment. I hope our current carers do tell their friends about the incredible work that they do so that they can attract more like-minded individuals to provide the same high level of care."

**Anyone interested in becoming a short break carer for disabled children in Manchester can speak to Anna Lomas on 0161 881 0911. For more information about Manchester City Council visit [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)**

## Volunteering opportunity

### Combining To Care In Manchester

Combining to Care is a partnership between the public, private and charity sectors in Manchester working together to help improve the lives of pensioners. We have volunteers from corporate volunteering schemes looking for placements which help older people. If your organisation could make use of volunteers, from just the one to several on a particular day, either for a one-off activity or perhaps on a regular basis, please get in touch. In addition, we may be able to help with volunteering opportunities which help older people where a longer, or regular commitment would be required.

**To find out more please call Lesleyjane Clifford on 01502 504095 or by email [lesleyjane.clifford@thepensionservice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lesleyjane.clifford@thepensionservice.gsi.gov.uk)**

## Training

### BLUE ORCHID WORKSHOPS FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

You may be interested to know that Singulier in partnership with Blue Orchid is currently running a range of workshops aimed at supporting individuals and organisations working in the social economy. There are funded places at those events for social enterprises that meet the required criteria \*

### Bid Writing Live! – 23rd June – Manchester

This is not a traditional bid writing course. The focus is on practice! Bring along a Live bid and get feedback on what you produce. <http://bid-writing-live-june.eventbrite.com/>

### Social Enterprise Growth Challenge 30th June – Manchester

A review of your business strategy, support to refocus, a catalyst for change and growth.

<http://socialenterprisechallengesession2.eventbrite.com/>

For criteria \* please read information on each workshop page. Thanks

For support in Starting a Social Enterprise, please contact us or view <http://thesocialenterpriselaunchpad.eventbrite.com/>

We hope you will find this information of interest and look forward to welcoming you on one of our programmes.

**For further information please contact Isabelle Farquhar, Social Enterprise Consultant – (Singulier Ltd working in partnership with Blue Orchid to support newly established social enterprises) Mobile: 07533 605 706 Email: [i.farquhar@theblueorchid.co.uk](mailto:i.farquhar@theblueorchid.co.uk)**

## MRSN Projects' Summary of Outcomes for 2010-2011:

### Advice outcomes:

Aims are to help relieve financial hardship and to give information and support that allows people to settle and build new and successful lives in the UK.

- Raised income and reduced personal debt by securing £120,564. Helped people manage 704 debts worth over £360,000
- 52 individuals move towards employment
- Provided work placements for 13 volunteers where they accessed appropriate advice skills training, supporting, mentoring and supervising them.
- Prevented homelessness for 40 families. Helped 224 families to find accommodation and provided advice to another 321 individuals.

Contributed to 76 people to accessed health or social care services, helped disabled people claim additional financial entitlements.

- Increased awareness of legal rights and responsibilities through 696 complex cases. Helped resolved 704 problems, nearly 1,200 referrals

### Community Development Project Outcomes:

Aims are to increase the capacity of RCOs enable newly emerging refugee communities to set up new groups and to improve RCO access to information and resources.

- Regular contact with 40 active refugee groups and have undertaken specific pieces of work with 27 RCOs across Greater Manchester, 6 of which new groups
- Supported included; drafting constitutions, developing funding strategies, bank accounts, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, developing policies e.g. child protection, equal opportunity. Access office space and/or venues.
- Fundraising support on funding sources and opportunities, outreach service and writing funding bids and application forms.
- Organised and delivered 10 trainings covering community building, project management, governance, monitoring

and evaluation, child protection, understanding and using outcomes, and developing a funding strategy. Run the "Women Communicating Effectively" 10 women received mentoring and training

- Compiled, printed and distributed 1,000 copies each of 6 newsletters to 150 agencies, 40 RCOs and 400 refugees.
- With our assistance groups have raised more than £50,000 in grants

### Refugee and Migrant Forum Outcomes:

Aims to advocate for the needs and aspirations of refugee communities.

- 11 refugee community leaders increased their skills by receiving 12 months accredited training. Led an investigation into the education of children of asylum-seekers in schools
- 5 Forum members were trained and ran 10 "Asylum Awareness" workshops. All 72 attendees reported an increase in understanding the UK asylum experience.
- Improvement to policy and practice. Mutual understanding and respect between UKBA staff and Forum members has been improved through meetings.
- Understanding of the work of the Independent Chief Inspector of the UKBA
- Increased awareness about the national "Let Them Work" campaign by building support amongst trade unions, local authorities and local MPs. So far 9 Greater Manchester MPs have pledged their support to the campaign.
- Over 20 members have improved their skills and increased involvement in planning, meetings with MPs, protests and letter writing campaigns.
- Secured the involvement of two MPs in a sleepout in Manchester against destitution

### Volunteer and Health Advocacy Outcomes:

Aims to improve the health and wellbeing of asylum seekers and refugees by co-ordinating volunteers and supporting refugees and asylum seekers to volunteering opportunities.

- 55 volunteers (43 were refugees or asylum seekers) from 22 countries

speaking 30 languages helped 1,135 people resolve a range of health or social care problems

- 4 volunteers won public awards for their volunteering work. Last year Sylvester Thomas won the Adult Category of the Heart of Salford volunteer awards for his work with the Forum. Health Advocacy volunteer, Mike Mpofu, was invited to the Lord Mayor's Reception in recognition of his contribution to Manchester.
- 37 volunteers completed MRSN's Health Advocacy and Advice 4 day training programme and 13 volunteers gained Open College Network advice qualifications.
- Several volunteers have progressed on to employment, college courses or further volunteering opportunities as a result of their experiences with MRSN
- We offered volunteers a two day training course on good practice and practical skills in "Working through an interpreter" which was run by TS4SE.

### Health Advocacy Project

- 20 volunteers (speaking 19 languages) supporting 127 people on 489 separate occasions. Clients from 27 different countries, two-thirds were asylum seekers. helped with: **Health care** e.g. helped get HC2 certificates for free prescriptions, dental care and glasses; register with GPs and dentists; made appointments. **Mental health and wellbeing** e.g. helped access counselling or other mental health services; provided emotional support; helped access social activities. **Social care** e.g. obtained financial support, accommodation, aids and equipment for disabled asylum seekers, refugees and destitute individuals. **Welfare** e.g. referred destitute asylum seekers for charitable accommodation support, clothing and food; obtained grants for 50 individuals worth an average £150 each; got free bus passes for elderly and disabled clients. **Housing and benefits** e.g. helped homeless people find suitable accommodation; helped get conditions improved in NASS accommodation; helped people get full entitlement to NASS and other welfare benefits.