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## EREC Hosts Local Election Hustings

In the lead up to May's local and national elections, EREC hosted a hustings event and invited representatives from the main local political parties to answer your questions.

Held 15th April 2010 at Community House, Edmonton the event was well attended by forty people, including EREC members, BME community groups and Enfield Council officers. The panel included the EREC Chair, Ade Adeshina as the Question Master and representatives from the Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties.

The Chair welcomed everyone and asked the panel to introduce themselves with a brief statement of their views and policies. Then a 'Question Time' format followed

with previously submitted questions as well as some drawn out of a box on the night. These included:

- *Should being a Councillor be a full-time occupation?*
- *How would you encourage more young people in Enfield to remain in education, employment and training post 16?*
- *What do you feel is the most effective way of raising issues of concern to BME communities with the Council and other public bodies in Enfield?*
- *What is your party strategy and proposed commitment for tackling race inequality in health?*

Each party was given the opportunity to answer questions. The event evaluation showed attendees welcomed the opportunity to participate and described the event as either good or excellent. For more information about EREC call 020 8373 6271.

Photographs



EREC Hustings representatives from four of Enfield's political parties.  
Clockwise from top left: Conservative, Green, Liberal Democrat and Labour

# EREC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



## EREC AGM

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010  
6pm – 9pm**

**Council Chamber  
Enfield Civic Centre  
Silver Street, Enfield, EN1**

- **Presentation of Annual Report**
- **Election of Board of Trustees**
- **Guest Speaker:**  
*Mr Bharat Mehta - Chief Executive,  
City Parochial Foundation*

- \* Buffet and Refreshments available\*
- \* Wheelchair Access & Induction Loop\*

Contact EREC for further details  
**Tel: 020 8373 6271/2**  
Email: [info@enfieldrec.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldrec.org.uk)

The AGM is an important meeting and all members are urged to attend. Please come and find out about the work we have been doing.

~ Thank you for your continued support ~

### Note to EREC Members

Shortly, you will be receiving your mailing about the AGM. We need your nominations for the Board and Membership Panel elections – so please complete the forms in your pack and return them by the deadline date.

If any member wishes to be nominated, please let your colleagues know that you are interested so that your name may be proposed.

### YOUR VOTES COUNT

**Remember** - Only organisations and individuals who are members of EREC are entitled to nominate, be nominated and vote at elections – so if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so asap

If you need any help with your forms, or would like to become a member of EREC, please contact Soula Solomon on 020 8373 6271/2.

## Funding for Black History Month Events

The last few years have seen the successful planning and organisation of Black History Month (BHM) events across Enfield. As well as EREC holding it's own events, it is an active member of the Black History Month planning group.

One of the requests arising from this group is for information on funding available to hold events by Black and Minority Ethnic community and voluntary groups.

Martin Garnar, Equalities Officer at Enfield Council has a spreadsheet of funders with contact details and encourages groups to apply for funding as soon as possible as

demand is likely to be high. This funding information will be sent out in EREC's next e-bulletin, contact EREC if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

Further advice and help with completing applications is available from Enfield Council's Sustainable Communities Team on 020 8379 1507.

If any group would like to work in partnership with EREC on this years Black History Month event, please contact Chandra Bhatia (EREC Chief Executive) on 020 8373 6271.

# Improving Health Project

The Improving Health Project is currently planning its project conference, due to take place in Summer 2010. Staff are also evaluating the last three years work and this information will make up the projects final report.

In March the project completed the last of its health promotion work in partnership with Deep Indian 50+ Association entitled 'Complimentary Therapy Day' and held at Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church. Attended by 40 people, the popular event gave participants the opportunity to book onto one of the free therapies on offer — Reflexology,

Chinese Massage, Indian Head Massage and Thai Foot Massage. Evaluation of the event included the following quotes from participants:

**'Head massage I had today was excellent'**

**'These type of therapies should be held regularly'**

**'Good advice and friendly atmosphere'**

Lastly, project staff are working on the final health consultation, details of which are below.

For further information about the Improving Health Project email [improvinghealth@enfieldrec.org.uk](mailto:improvinghealth@enfieldrec.org.uk) or call 020 8373 6273.

## GP Choice Consultation: Your GP, Your Choice, Your Say

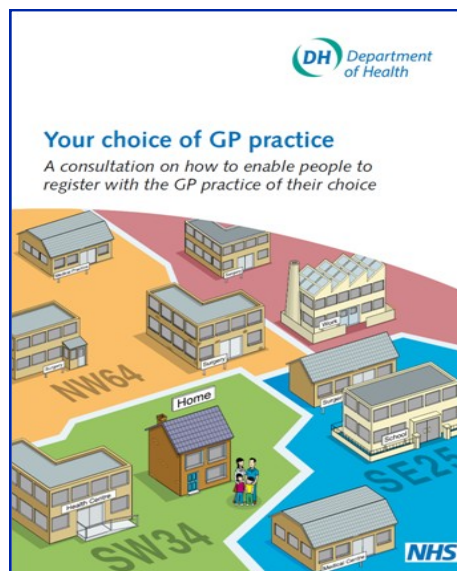
The Department of Health are currently consulting on plans to give patients more choice about which GP practice they register with.

Currently people must register with a GP that is close to their home to ensure they fall within the catchment area. However, the Government is looking at how to change this so that people can select one better suited to their needs. Such as one closer to work or one that has longer opening hours.

Research into the health needs of Black and Minority Ethnic Communities shows that equal access to GP services can be affected by a number of different issues. Examples of this might include:

- the language or dialect spoken by the GP,
- availability of interpreters / bilingual staff,

- cultural / religious awareness of reception staff,
- attitudes towards registering asylum seekers,
- or female patients preferring to be seen by a female GP.



The Improving Health Project is interested in conveying the specific issues affecting Black and Minority Ethnic Communities when choosing

a GP, and would therefore encourage stakeholders, community organisations and service users to contact them with their issues and views.

The consultation documents and online questionnaire are available at [www.gpchoice.dh.gov.uk](http://www.gpchoice.dh.gov.uk) should you wish to respond direct. Postal responses can be mailed to *Your choice of GP practice*, Room 2E42, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE. The consultation closes **28th May 2010**.

However, please let the Improving Health Project know what issues you have raised—this information will be used to lobby for changes with policy makers.

Contact project staff by calling 020 8373 6278/3 or email [improvinghealth@enfieldrec.org.uk](mailto:improvinghealth@enfieldrec.org.uk) with your views and comments.

## Contact us:

### Enfield Racial Equality Council

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London  
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**Fax:** 020 8373 6281

**Email:** [info@enfieldrec.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldrec.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.enfieldrec.org.uk](http://www.enfieldrec.org.uk)



Become a member of Enfield Racial Equality Council.

If you support the work of EREC, then why not join us as a member. Membership is free and open to individuals who live or work in Enfield and to organisations operating in Enfield, who are committed in furthering the work of EREC.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Enfield Racial Equality Council. EREC cannot take responsibility for information or articles submitted for inclusion in the newsletter.

**We welcome your comments about this newsletter.**  
**If you would like to include information or an article in our next edition please contact us.**

*Challenging Racism and Promoting Racial Equality  
within the London Borough of Enfield*

## Equality Bill 2010

On 8th April 2010 the Equality Act received Royal Assent, this means the main provisions are due to come into force from October 2010. The Bill contains measures for tackling inequalities and aims to help Britain become a fairer society.

This historic Bill aims to make the law easier to understand and implement by simplifying 116 pieces of equality legislation into a Single Act. Existing equality laws will be strengthened by:

1. Introducing a new public sector duty to consider **reducing socioeconomic inequalities**
2. Putting a new integrated **Equality Duty** on public bodies
3. Using **public procurement** to improve equality
4. Banning **age discrimination** outside the workplace
5. Requiring **gender pay** and employment equality publishing
6. Extending the scope to use **positive action**

7. Strengthening the **powers of employment tribunals**

8. Protecting **carers** from discrimination

9. Clarifying the protection for **breast-feeding mothers**

10. Banning discrimination in **private members' clubs**

11. Strengthening protection from discrimination for **disabled people**

12. Protecting people from **dual discrimination**—direct discrimination because of a combination of two protected characteristics.

For ethnic minorities the Equality Bill will help with

- making the workplace more diverse
- the power to ban caste discrimination
- increasing the diversity in parliament.

For further information read '**The Equality Act, making equality real**' available from the Government Equalities Office at [www.equalities.gov.uk](http://www.equalities.gov.uk)

## Learning Activities for Asylum Seekers

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) and the Refugee Council have been working in partnership to support asylum seekers who do not have access to publicly funded adult learning provision.

The new directory of London agencies which offer learning activities for asylum seekers is now available on the NIACE website on the '**A right to a Voice**' campaign page ([www.niace.org.uk](http://www.niace.org.uk)).

Chris Taylor ( Programme Director, NIACE) would like to draw readers attention to campaign materials and resource materials available for volunteers working with asylum seekers. As well the session plans, teaching and learning resources and a free ESOL picture prompt booklet available on the NIACE website at [www.niace.org.uk](http://www.niace.org.uk)