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Tackling Poverty in London Topic at AGM

The EREC Annual General Meeting took place the evening of 1st July 2010 at the Civic Centre, Enfield and was well attended by over 60 people.

Reports were presented by Ade Adeshina (Chair), Chandra Bhatia (Chief Executive) and Richard Garland (Treasurer). Elections for the Board of Trustees took place and Bevin Betton was appointed as the new EREC Chair.

The guest speaker Bharat Mehta (Chief Executive of Trust for London) said he was pleased to be at the AGM in his first public meeting under his organisations new name (formally City Parochial) talking about 'Tackling Poverty in London'.

He explained the Trust's approach as funders with £6 million per year available to organisations whose mission is tackling inequality in London.

A summary document entitled 'London's Poverty Profile' was circulated to the audience and Mr Mehta outlined the main points. He suggested that people read the full document available at www.londonspovetryprofile.org.uk which includes a wealth of important data, such as unemployment levels for Black and Minority Ethnic women which are beyond 60%.

He continued his talk saying that the challenge for the Trust was how they as grant makers respond to de-centralisation.

Audience questions included:

- *Where does the Trust for London get the money to give out funding?*
- *How do you tackle fundamentals, such as inequality in life?*
- *Do you fund ESOL?*

For more information about the AGM and EREC's work call 020 8373 6271.

AGM Photographs



Fun at Popular Refugee Week Family Concert

Connaught Opera presents 'Creating Closer Communities'



The Community House Cafe was the venue for the 'Creating Closer Communities Family Concert' organised by Connaught Opera and sponsored by EREC and Enfield Council which took place the evening of Thursday 17th June 2010.

The Connaught Opera (funded by Awards for All) have arranged 35 concerts in London to create harmony and strengthen community spirit, particularly amongst people isolated by their lack of exposure to cultural events, and those living within a community where they have language and or communication difficulties.

Vicky Dungate (EREC Vice-

Chair) welcomed the 45 attendees which included members from the Tamil Relief Centre, Enfield Saheli, Gargaar Somali Welfare Association, Enfield Bangladeshi Welfare Association, EREC, Councillors and Enfield Council staff.

The Connaught Opera performed 'Quintessentially English' a rousing concert for 30 minutes. This was followed by 'Kollattam' a wonderful and colourful dance performance by the Tamil Relief Centre children. Both performances were warmly received by the audience.

The attendees then participated

a few Hindi songs and a short discussion about culture to create a bond amongst the audience.

The evaluation showed that of the 27 people who completed forms, 17 people stated the event was 'excellent' and 10 that it was 'good'. Comments included enjoying the:

'Dancing, singing and meeting new people of different regions.' and

'EREC is doing its best to help the overall and cultural development of the community. Well done EREC! You are always unique in your events.'

Are you a former NHS worker of South Asian heritage?
... or do you know someone who is?

RUNNYMEDE

Runnymede, the UK's leading race equality thinktank, is currently researching **the contribution of South Asian communities to the NHS.**

We are looking to interview people of South Asian heritage who have been employed by the NHS, particularly first generation older people who arrived in the UK from the 1950 onwards.

The oral testimonies we collect will form a book to celebrate the achievements of South Asian NHS employees, past and present.

If you would like to participate in this project, or know someone who would be interested, we'd be delighted to hear from you on: klara@runnymedetrust.org or 020 7377 9222 or The Runnymede Trust, 7 Plough Yard, London, EC2A 3LP

Improving Health Project

Conference celebrates success of Project



EREC held a successful conference at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre, Wednesday 14th July 2010 to celebrate the work and achievements of the Improving Health Project. Funded by the Big Lottery the 3 ½ year project (ending August 2010) aims to tackle health inequality and inequity by improving the health of black and minority ethnic communities living in Enfield.

Attended by over 60 people, Chandra Bhatia (EREC Chief Executive) welcomed the delegates and gave an overview of EREC's work. She stated that the flagship project had been a major success, benefiting over 600 people in the last year alone.

Ms Beryl De Souza (EREC Vice Chair, British Medical Association Council member and Plastic Surgeon at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital) described the work

carried out by the project, including 20 health promotion and awareness raising events for local communities such as the Complementary Therapies event, Caribbean Health Day and the Healthy Asian Recipe book launch.

Her presentation also outlined the project's policy work consisting of responses to health consultations, including the downgrading of Chase Farm Hospital and more recently the GP Choice consultation (full report available from the project call 020 8373 6273). She voiced her concerns from local community groups that such important work needs to continue and for that urgent funding is required.

This was followed by the inspirational guest speaker Patrick Vernon (Chief Executive of the Afiya Trust, a leading national charity on Black and Minority Ethnic health

and social care and a Councillor in Hackney). He spoke about achieving health equality for diverse communities and empowering racialised communities to influence policy making at the top level. He mentioned the need to support social marketing campaigns to challenge inequalities in health and raise awareness of health conditions affecting Black and Minority Ethnic communities (copy of presentation available by emailing improvinghealth@enfieldrec.org.uk)

Mr Rasheed Sadegh-Zadeh (EREC Vice-Chair) chaired the afternoon session which began with two talks from representatives of the community groups the project had worked with, these were warmly received and included Vijay Rattan (Naree Shakti) and Rubina Khan (Enfield Saheli).

Four interactive workshops and a feedback session followed. Mr Sadegh-Zadeh thanked the speakers, facilitators, EREC staff and the delegates for participating and explained a full conference report would be available later in the year.



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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 Act 2010 - Free New Guides

Personalisation in Enfield Consultation

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is a small policy department which has responsibility within the government for equality strategy and legislation.

The Equality Act brings nine pieces of legislation together in one Act simplifying the law and strengthening it in ways to tackle discrimination and inequality.

Implementation of the majority of the Acts provisions will begin October 2010.

The GEO in partnership with the British Chambers of Commerce, Citizens Advice and the Equality and Diversity Forum have produced a series of guides to support the implementation of the Act.

These guides explain clearly what the new laws mean for the public and voluntary sectors, for business and for individuals, helping people to understand their responsibilities and rights.

Available free to download at the

GEO website (www.equalities.gov.uk) are the following guides:

- Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know? A summary guide to your rights

- Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know? A summary guide for voluntary and community sector service providers

- Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know? A summary guide for public sector organisations

- Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know? A summary guide for businesses who sell goods and services

- Acas guide on The Equality Act – what's new for employers?

- Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know? Disability quick start guide

- Tackling discrimination – how the new law could help if you care, unpaid, for someone who is disabled or elderly.

The way social care delivers its services for adults is changing—this is known as personalisation. The aim is to give people more choice and control about how they live their lives.

This includes empowering people to lead independent lives, choose and control their support and care and manage their own budgets.

Personalisation includes:

- Better access to information, advice and guidance to help you find the support you need.
- Self-assessment of your needs, with help to complete this if you need it
- Knowing how much budget is available to buy the care and support you need.

Enfield Council have an information leaflet and online questionnaire for you to have your say, available at www.enfield.gov.uk please complete this and give your views and opinions by **Friday 17th September 2010.**