

AWAZ Cumbria Pathway to Changing Lives Project Annual Report 2012-13



Cumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner Candidates Presenting their manifesto at AWAZ Cumbria BME Forum – 8 November 2012, Penrith



**AWAZ Cumbria Pathways to Changing Lives Project
2011-14**



Project 2nd Annual Report 2013-13

AWAZ Cumbria Pathways to Changing Lives Project was started on 1st September 2011 with the grant support from Northern Rock Foundation. We are pleased to submit our 2nd annual report against the plans and targets as described in our EPF. To provide an effective management and leadership: AWAZ Cumbria has a robust governance structure in place along with monitoring and evaluation systems.

All the key project's activities being updated regularly in the AWAZ's database management system and shared with the management in regular supervision meetings and outcomes are reported to the Board quarterly. The project activity details and progress regularly shared with the Northern Rock Foundation Programme manager.

In the 2nd year, our progress against the EPF plans has been on target. The four key themes of our activities are, Social Justice, Equality, Enterprise and AWAZ development and sustainability.

This year the numbers of activities under each theme (full details of activities are available upon request) are as under;

Social Justice – 87

Equality – 48

Enterprise – 47

AWAZ development and Sustainability – 14

- The majority of complex and difficult issues BME people experience across North and West Cumbria range from discrimination at workplace, barriers in accessing health and social care services, Families (natural parents and foster/adoption parents) of Dual heritage children and young people are experiencing isolation, race hate crimes, complaints against police behaviour and attitudes, community safety issues and equal access to opportunities for social mobility.

In response to requests for support from BME people experiencing these issues:



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AWAZ Cumbria within its limited capacity managed to establish good signposting and referral arrangements with local advice agencies but there is lot more demand for advocacy support.

- The BME people who are experiencing racial prejudice and discrimination at work place have limited knowledge, awareness and appropriate information resources to challenge these behaviours. Access to professional advice and advocacy support is limited. As part of 'AWAZ Pathways to Changing Lives Project' we have support Migrants workers to establish West Cumbria Migrants Network to help BME individuals to develop a social network and support each other and cope with the impact of social isolation and seek further help and advice.

Although with AWAZ support the Network is now properly constituted but it is at early stage and need support for its further development and sustainability.

- The advice and advocacy support organisation's capacity to support BME service users particularly those who have limited or no English speaking skills is a major challenge. AWAZ Cumbria with additional support from Cumbria Link published a report "BME People: Equity in Accessing GP services in Carlisle". This report finds that BME people are experiencing discrimination and inequality in accessing GP services.

There is need for sustained public policy advocacy work and advocacy to challenge structural barriers and apathy of local decision makers in addressing inequalities in accessing health and social care service experienced by BME population across Cumbria.

- As part of our work to support BME people in complex and difficult situations we have anecdotal evidence to suggest that families (natural parents and foster/adoption parents) of dual heritage children and young people are experiencing isolation and there is no support mechanisms or networks for these families across Cumbria.



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There is a need to support families (natural parents and foster/adoption parents) of dual heritage children and young people who are experiencing isolation to empower their voices and help in establishing a network to share their common experiences and concerns to find solutions for equitable access to services.

- The membership in Crown Prosecution Service “Cumbria Local Scrutiny Involvement Panel (LSIP)” provided us the opportunity to scrutinise the way Criminal Justice System handles the race hate crime in particular and other crimes in general and influence the policy and practice within CJS agencies in dealing with cases in relation to minority ethnic communities. We have utilised CPS “Race and Religious Hate Crime Educational Resource Pack” to discuss equality, racism and bullying during dedicated sessions on raising awareness among year 6 children as part of Junior Citizens Scheme run by Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service as part of a partnership project (partially supported by Coop community Fund). 139 Children from 14 Schools in Eden District attended these sessions.
- To empower the voice of BME communities on community safety issues. We have organised BME Forum on 8th November 2012 and invited all the candidates contesting for the post of Cumbria’s Police and Crime Commissioner. This early interaction helped AWAZ to influence the policy on setting priorities for key community safety issues within Police and Crime Commissioner Plan.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner have a formal meeting with AWAZ on 22 July 2013 to discuss key BME community issues and concerns. Following up actions from this meeting is a work in progress.
- We are working closely with Cumbria Association of Black Police Officers to advance race equality within Cumbria constabulary. We are also working with Carlisle Equality and Diversity Partnership, West Cumbria Equality and Diversity Partnership, South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership, and Barrow Equality and Diversity Partnership to advance race equality and foster good relations.
- AWAZ public policy advocacy work on BME community safety issues gradually bringing some positive outcomes at policy level but there is a long way to go to influence change at practice level. AWAZ has produced a report on Third party Hate Crime reporting



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Centre across Cumbria. This report finds that majority of these centres are not fit for purpose and their capacity to help BME victims of hate crime is very limited.

There is a need for a sustainable public policy advocacy work and effective engagement with the office of Police and Crime Commissioner to influence decision making processes on BME Community Safety issues.

- As part of our changing lives – social mobility support work, we have organised ‘Community Researchers Training’ for BME Community activists to enhance their community research skills. 12 BME community activists from 11 different ethnic communities trained in Community research. We have also helped 10 BME individuals in identifying and securing volunteering and career development opportunities.
- As part of the development of a BME Youth Network, we organised a workshop in partnership with Construction Skills to help and support BME young people to gain practical skills in applying for Apprenticeships opportunities in Construction sector. 11 Young people attended the workshop.
- As part of the development of a BME Women Network, we have supported establishment of “Wellbeing of Women (WOW) Group in Carlisle and helped them in their funding applications for their sports project and activities.

The BME Youth and Women Network needs further help and support in their development and sustainability.

- We were unable to manage and coordinate “Community Networking and Information Point” during Appleby Fair- 2013 due to our limited capacity. However, we actively participated in the review of Multiagency Gypsy and Traveller protocol and a revised protocol is in place now.

There is no dedicated project in Cumbria to support Gypsy and Travellers Communities. AWAZ Cumbria empowers the voice of Gypsy and Travellers communities at strategic level but there is need for additional dedicated community support.



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AWAZ Cumbria is a member of Cumbria Youth Alliance, Cumbria Advice Network, Cumbria 3rd Sector executive's Network, Northwest BME Policy Forum and Voice4Change. We believe in partnership working and AWAZ has demonstrated its leadership in working in collaboration with a range of 3rd sector and public sector organisation locally, regionally and nationally.

We are using monitoring and evaluation forms for feedback from our service users and based on the feedback endeavour to improve the quality of our services for our project's beneficiaries.

As result of this feedback we have identified the key areas for further development and support and currently preparing our proposals for new initiatives as part of the continuity of our project to support most marginalised BME communities in Cumbria and would welcome an opportunity to discuss with the programme manager.

Report Prepared by;

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Dated: 27th July 2013