



Progress Through Partnerships

Engaging with BME Voluntary Sector

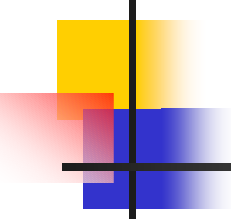
Angela Spence &
Ade Fashade

Why Community Cohesion?



- Cattle report on 2001 riots : found lack of integration and exclusion from mainstream society
- Respect for and contact between different cultures
- Creating similar life opportunities for all
- Encouraging community participation
- Active citizenship through strong relationships between people from different backgrounds

Why Progress Through Partnerships?

- 
- Around 9% of the population of Great Britain is from the BME Community
 - Of that 9%, over two thirds (70%) live in the 88 most deprived boroughs
 - Lack of Collaboration between white-led & BME sector
 - Bridge the gap in the sector between white-led & BME led in VCS
 - Create a strong voice to influence policy – ‘making it real’ for diverse sector
 - Finding common ground based on shared values



Why work in partnership with the BME Voluntary Sector?

- Many are grass root organisations which respond to specific needs not being met by mainstream services
- Provide direct access to the BME communities that you are trying to reach
- Services provided are culturally specific to meet diverse needs of the BME community
- It helps to capacity build the sector and raise further opportunities for working in partnership



Issues for BME organisations

What PTP has found

- Lack of trust
- Communication and Language barriers
- Lack of Influence at the decision making table
- Inequality of Partnership
- Lack of Resources
- A need for Networking



MORE COMPLEX BARRIERS: A BME perspective

- Project funding creating culture of competitiveness rather than working together, plus lack of core funding
- Looking inwards at establishing own community structures which prevents collaborative working within the BME sector
- The social policy climate creating the 'dining table' syndrome with the usual faces within BME communities dominating the agenda

MORE COMPLEX BARRIERS:

A mainstream perspective

- A lack of cultural competence and awareness
- Assumption that 'super black' workers will solve all the problems
- Not just seeing BME organisations as needing help but looking at how they can be a source of help



How Does PTP Support Multi-Ethnic Partnerships?

- Encourage BME organisations to celebrate their achievements
- Ensure BME perspectives are taken into account
- Work closely with white-led organisations to raise awareness and facilitate the partnership process



REMOVING BARRIERS

- Research the BME voluntary Sector
- Compile a database of relevant organisations and networks
- Think of practical and fun ways of reaching BME communities



HOW?

- Make links with BME umbrella organisations and networks, they can provide direct access to local community groups
- Make links with faith groups, they play an important role within the BME voluntary sector. By engaging with faith groups, you are able to access larger populations of ethnic groups who are able to ensure projects are relevant to their needs
- Use innovative techniques to bridge the gap such as attending local festivals and events and running local community days



REMOVING BARRIERS

BUILD TRUST

- Invest time into building trust, there is no quick or easy solution, it will take time.
- Understand the cultural issues and raise levels of awareness amongst your staff
 - Discuss capacity building issues from all perspectives



HOW?

- AWAY DAYS
- FACILITATED MEETINGS
- PARTNERSHIP RESOURCES

Removing Barriers



- Don't expect quick wins! It takes time to understand the needs of BME communities and develop services accordingly. This needs to be taken into consideration when devising workplans on engagement with BME communities



ANGELA SPENCE

PTP Co-ordinator

Black Training and Enterprise Group

Regent's Wharf

8 All Saints Street

London N1 9RL

Tel: 020 7520 2433

Email: angela@bteg.co.uk



Ade Fashade

PTP Co-ordinator

Bassac

33 Corsham Street

London N1 6DR

Telephone: 0845 241 0375

Email: ade@bassac.org.uk