

Foreword

We have a packed 16th edition of our newsletter including news of our successful Gypsy & Traveller event, Hate crime Practitioners Group scoping exercise and news about Sandwell Irish Community Association.

RES is also pleased to announce the start of a Volunteer programme which sees volunteers come in 1 day a week to learn about our work and undertake some really interesting tasks that supports our work as well as giving them opportunities to learn new skills.

RES continues to play a key role in policy development with our partners in areas of health, housing & regeneration and criminal justice.

As ever, if you would like to contact a member of the team please give us a call on 0121 541 1775 or email us at enquiries@raceequalitysandwell.com

Editor Lara

TYPE TALK USERS 18001

RES is proud to announce that we have now signed up to RNID Type Talk which will allow us to engage more effectively with the Deaf and hard of hearing community.

If you want to use type talk you need to Dial 18001 then the telephone number i.e. 18001 0121 541 1775 you will be connected to an office in Liverpool who will type the message, we can then respond and the centre in Liverpool will type our response back to the customer.

This system can also be used if you have a disability that would make it hard to communicate with us over the phone.

We hope that this system will prove useful to the communities in Sandwell and increase the number of people that can utilise our services.

Community
Legal Service



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HATE CRIME

Race Equality Sandwell has been asked by the hate crime practitioners group to carry out a scoping exercise to ascertain the level of understanding and need regarding hate crime locally. If you think you would be interested in participating in this research please contact Race Equality Sandwell on 0121 541 1775. We are similarly interested in speaking to any victims of hate crime about their experiences of being supported (or not) in the borough and what services they think should be available.

Racial Harassment & Discrimination Unit

This quarter Race Equality Sandwell has been instrumental in assisting a number of clients in settling their cases prior to reaching tribunal through utilising mediation and advocacy services. Clients have been delighted with these outcomes and are now looking forward to moving on from this difficult period of their lives.

Sandwell Gypsy and Traveller Event Who? What minority?

Sandwell Gypsy and Traveller interagency group hosted an event to raise awareness about the issues, aspirations and needs of these communities. Speakers included Pat Niner from the University of Birmingham, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland who is the ACPO lead on Gypsy and Travellers, Andrew Ryder from the Irish Traveller Movement and Sarah Hodgson from Walsall TESST. The event was well attended and had very positive feedback from participants who felt the event was an excellent introduction to understanding this often forgotten minority. It is hoped this will become an annual event with the community driving the agenda forward. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the report please contact Belinda on 0121 541 1775 who will be happy to forward a copy to you.

Administrator Role fulfilled

My name is Rajwant Samra. I joined RES 3 months ago. My job title is Receptionist/Administrator and my key role is providing administrative support for all RES staff. The role is varied, working with all projects. Some of my duties include; typing all types of documents, preparing files, petty cash, and taking minutes of meetings, postal duties, creating charts, and many more.

I find the work interesting and rewarding. I am proud to be part of the RES team.

RES & CAB JOIN FORCES

Good news! Race Equality Sandwell have joined forces with the CAB to offer advice surgeries from their West Bromwich offices once a month. Our case workers will be on hand to offer advice about discrimination in the workplace as well as harassment in your neighbourhood. Appointments can be made through the CAB offices and our first session is to be held on 31st October 10 – 12 a.m, alternatively we can offer telephone advice by calling 0121 541 1775.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

RES now has 2 volunteers that come in on a weekly basis to support the work that we do and learn skills in casework and Equality Impact Assessments. For more information please contact us 0121 541 1775.



Sandwell Irish Community Association



Registered Charity number: 1107645
19a, Langley High Street, Oldbury, West Midlands. B69 4SN
0121 533 9734
juanitasandwellirish@yahoo.co.uk



We aim to work primarily with the Irish community, raising awareness of health issues, cultural and social events. Working in partnership with other ethnic groups to promote cohesion within the borough of Sandwell.

We are located in Langley High Street, Langley but we serve the whole of the borough. We aim to work primarily with the Irish community, raising awareness of health inequalities and issues as well as promoting social and cultural events. We endeavour to promote community cohesion by working closely with other groups in Sandwell. We are part of the Community Health Network within the PCT. We are a relatively new charity group and we need to involve more people in order to grow and expand the services we offer.

We are involved with a number of health initiatives including Health Screening where people can be monitored for height, weight, BMI, blood pressure, liver function, cholesterol and Haemochromatosis (Celtic Gene). We are waiting to hear if we have the go ahead for further research into this blood disorder which is prevalent within the Irish community. The screening is carried out by qualified health professionals and doctors and is completely free to attend.

Currently we are offering the following services:

- Extend (Gentle exercise)
- Walking
- Walk to Beijing
- Bowling
- Tea Dances
- Macmillan Cancer support
- Welfare and Benefits advice
- Chiropody service
- FREE K5 health monitor
- A community garden

In the future we plan to offer:

- Icap counselling service
- A Nurse led practice
- Flower arranging
- Gaelic lessons
- Holistic and alternative therapy
- Irish dancing lessons for all ages
- Healthy eating, cooking and diet services

We would like people to contact us by letter, phone or email so that we can add their details to our database and keep them informed of future events and activities. We would welcome any feedback and involvement from the Irish community in Sandwell. Contact details are given above but Chris Flood, Resource Centre Manager can also be emailed on chrisfloodsandwellirish@yahoo.co.uk

RES staff walk to Beijing

Members of the RES team signed up for walk to Beijing after being coursed by our Vice Chairman Chris Flood of Sandwell Irish Community Association. Although admittedly some staff are doing better than others.....



Sandwell homes have a 'keep warm this winter campaign' to ensure vulnerable people have adequate heating over the winter months. For further information please contact Andrew Walton on 0121 569 6468 who will be happy to help.

WANTED Interpreters

The local criminal justice service needs interpreters from a variety of new communities but particularly from Poland and Somalia. If you would be interested in becoming an interpreter please contact the national register of public service interpreters on 020 7940 3166 or by email nrpsi@iol.org.uk or by accessing their website www.nrpsi.co.uk who will be able to inform you on what you need to do next. You must be over 18 years of age, eligible to work in the UK and be subject to relevant security clearance. Once necessary training and testing has taken place you will be eligible to join the register and be called upon for interpreting work.

Diversity Week funded by Advantage West Midlands and administered by West Midlands Employer Coalition (part of Working Ventures UK Ltd) will promote the Seven Strands of Diversity across the West Midlands between 17 - 21st November 2008.

The programme will demonstrate the benefits of employing a truly diverse workforce by putting the business case clearly and effectively, and enabling further signposting to support real future action by businesses and organisations (especially SMEs).

Diversity Week will raise the profile of the seven strands of diversity across the West Midlands via a range of events taking place between 17 - 21st November 2008.

The seven strands of diversity to be covered are:

- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Age
- Disability
- Religion & Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Human Rights

The requirement is for two events per strand to be staged where possible, and for these events to be proportionally spread geographically across the counties of the West Midlands region.

Advantage West Midlands in partnership with the West Midlands Employer Coalition (WMEC) will support the delivery of the events through the appropriate organisations which may come from any of the three economic sectors.

Your Contact

Nichola Balmer
Executive Director
West Midlands Employer Coalition
King Edwards Court
2 Railway Road
Sutton Coldfield
B73 6AY
Tel: 0121 480 3788

Support Strategies for Young People & Parents



Hello, my name is Freda Edwards, I serve as Race Equality Sandwells (RES) Development Worker for the Big Lottery project: Support Strategies for Young people and Parents (SSYPP), an educational project that seeks to address the down

turn in performance that often arises when children transfer to Secondary School. My role involves assisting the project director, establishing a system for monitoring and evaluating the academic and social psychological progress of young people, by working closely with research partners and assistants in three schools; Aston Manor, Castle High, College High (Dudley), in developing information and guidance strategies which will enable young people to navigate the numerous pathways towards career choices and adulthood.

As a qualified teaching assistant my interest in improving minority ethnic educational performance has led me to volunteer to serve on the Midlands Equality in Education Network (MEEN) at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, (Birmingham hub), whose aims and objectives of the networks are to promote the human rights and equality of children and young people in and through education and to support LAs and schools in fulfilling their statutory duty to promote equality. If you are interested in finding out more about the project feel free to contact me on 0121 541 1775.