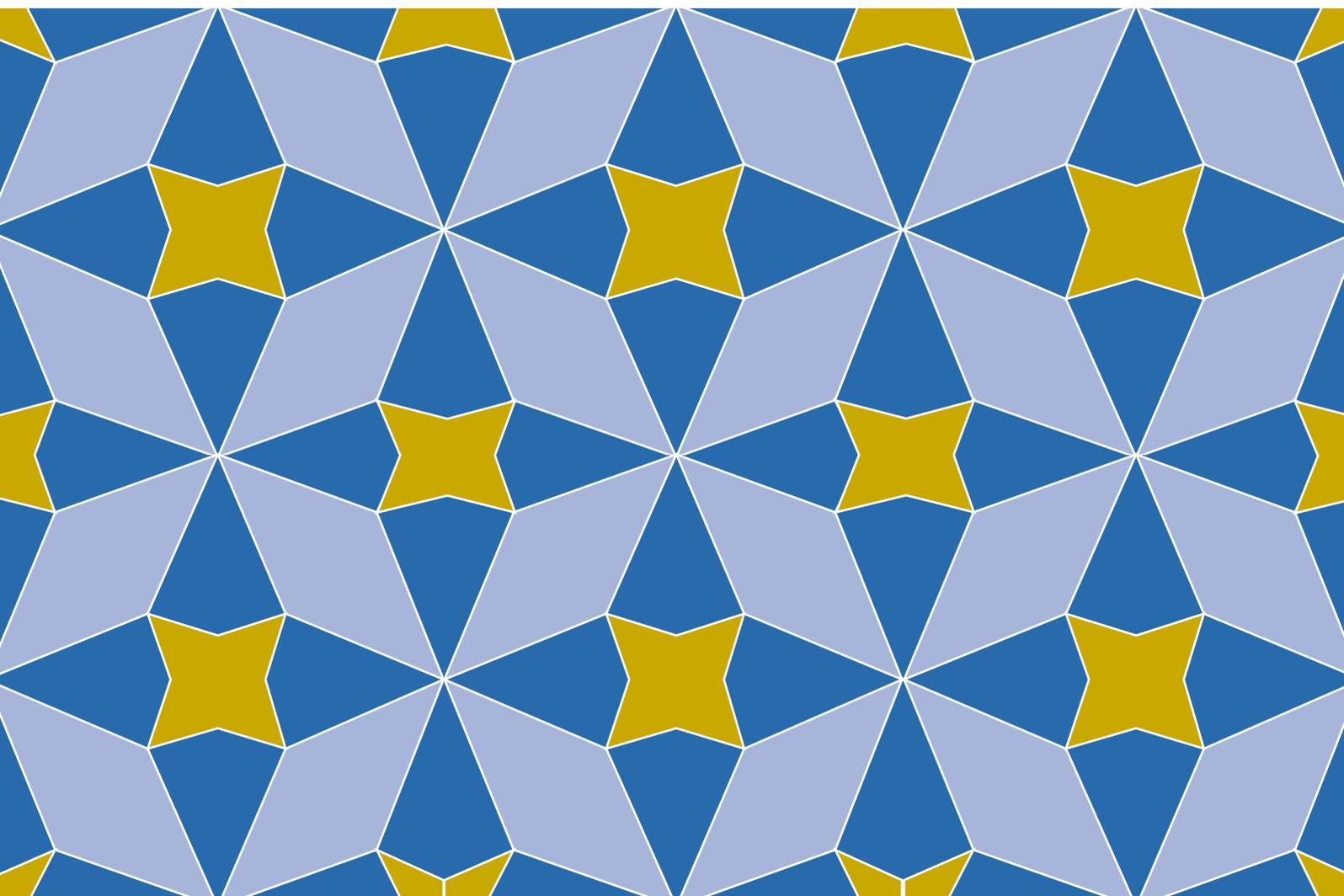


# ***YOUR VOICE***

*APRIL 2007*

**NEWSLETTER OF THE BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM PROJECT**

*NORTH SOMERSET*



# WELCOME TO THE NEW FULL COLOUR NEWSLETTER FOR THE NORTH SOMERSET BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM PROJECT

We hope you like it and find it easy to read.

We would welcome any comments or suggestions about the style or content of the newsletter; and any articles or contributions would be particularly appreciated.

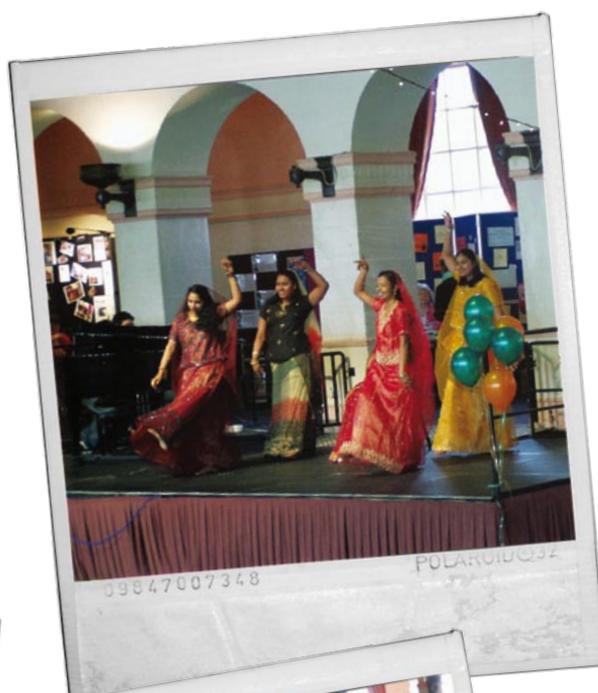
Whether you want to let us know about an event taking place, report on something that has happened or tell us about your experiences we would like to hear from you.

We aim to get the newsletter out every 2 months and to distribute it across North Somerset through community centres, libraries and individuals.

Let us know if you would like extra copies.

## TOGETHER WE STAND

Another exciting and colourful event was held, also at the Winter Gardens, on Saturday 24th February organised by the Community Safety team of the Council. As well as informative stalls covering a whole range of issues from fire safety and crime prevention to hygiene and health, there was a full programme of entertainment. Dancing from India, Africa and Eastern Europe had people clapping and cheering, and sometimes joining in! The whole day showed what an interesting multicultural place North Somerset is becoming.





# SUPPORTIVE PARENTS

## SOME EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

**Would you like advice and support to find work?  
Do you have qualifications gained outside the UK?**

WTCS Limited is experienced in helping people who are disadvantaged in the labour market to find and sustain employment. We are currently running a programme for ethnic minority groups in your area.

New Deal Ethnic Minority Provision is designed to:

- Build confidence and motivation to help you find work
- Provide help with job search, CV writing, applications and interview techniques
- Provide information about UK employer expectations
- Signpost you to other specialist agencies who can help

We are also able to convert the academic and vocational qualifications you have gained in another country to UK equivalents using UK NARIC (the UK information provider on the comparability of international qualifications).

This is a one to one programme and you will meet with a Personal Adviser, who will help you to work towards your individual goals.

To be eligible for this programme you must be claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and be on New Deal.

**If you feel you would benefit from this service please speak to your local Jobcentre Plus office or call WTCS Limited on 0800 028 3037 for further information. [www.wtcsltd.co.uk](http://www.wtcsltd.co.uk)**

### **Providing the Parent Partnership Service for Parent / Carers in North Somerset**

Supportive Parents is a parent-led organisation providing information advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs (SEN).

In 2001 The Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs was established. The Code requires Local Authorities to provide a Parent Partnership Service for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs.

Any parent who has a concern about their child's education can contact our service (pre-school to 19 years).

Our Help line is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00 a.m - 2.00 p.m during term time, (answer phone at all other times). Tel: 0117 9897725.

Supportive Parents will

- listen to parents concerns,
- Help parents find the appropriate information,
- Help parents prepare for meetings with the school or local authority.
- Help parents decide what questions to ask,
- Help parents think how to write their contribution about their child's needs.

Support Groups are held each month alternating between Weston Super Mare and Portishead. The aim of these meetings is to provide support and information. Speakers are sometimes arranged, we also give talks to other parent support groups.

**If you would like more information about our service please contact:**

**Jackie Oxley, North Somerset Co ordinator  
on 0117 9897725**

POPP is the name of a government initiative – Partnerships for Older People Project. North Somerset Council has been successful in a bid to set up a pilot project aimed at helping older people keep their independence and improve their quality of life. As part of the bid, SREC will receive money to employ a community development worker in North Somerset who will work with older people from the ethnic minority communities. The new worker will be employed from May, so look out for more information in the next newsletter.

## YOUR NORTH SOMERSET EVENT

An exciting and colourful event was held at the Winter Gardens on Sunday 21st January North Somerset Council together with the Police and Primary Care Trust put on an event in the Winter Gardens at Weston-super-Mare which attracted over 450 people. The event was particularly aimed at minority ethnic communities in North Somerset with information on access to health and social services, housing, employment, crime reduction and community safety.

There were a range of informative stalls and people were kept busy with discussion and enquiries. It was also an opportunity to do some useful networking. And there was also an opportunity to have fun. The steel band had people dancing in the aisles; there was foodtasting from around the world, which was quite substantial and quite delicious, put on by Weston College; there was facepainting and entertainment for younger people including a story-telling by Gloria Lawrence which held everyone's attention.

The day went down well with those who attended. A couple of comments give the flavour of the day:

"I feel in the holiday mood with such beautiful music, delicious food and people from all over the world"

"A valuable insight into services available to people in North Somerset; Excellent steel band, food and storytelling"

Overall it was a very successful day, which built on the positives of last year's event. Talk is already about what to do next year, with the possibility of a travelling roadshow which could go to some of the outlying areas of the Authority. We'll keep you informed of progress.

The North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Forum Project (a bit of a mouthful but we're working on it!) has been running for over a year now and we are beginning to see some results. There have been two meetings of the Forum, the most recent in Nailsea in January. This was addressed by Bernard Lane from Victim Support who gave an interesting talk on the help that people can get if they become unfortunate victims of crime. (We were reassured though that North Somerset is generally a low crime area!). There was then some lively discussion about the Forum and its purpose, followed by a consultation session with Sharon Roberts concerning North Somerset Council's Race Equality Strategy. The next meeting of the Forum will be in April. Please contact us for details.

Another development has been work with the Polish and east European communities. With the help of the Central and Eastern European Society and the Avon and Somerset Police a drop-in clinic has been held at the Campus in Worle to give advice on issues of welfare and employment. More recently Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church has been holding a Polish Mass on the second Sunday of the month which has been well-attended. Representatives of the Central and Eastern European Society have been available at the end and people can make appointments for a private consultation at the Campus later in the month.

Our project offers a service to all people from ethnic minorities living or working in North Somerset. If you have a problem or would like to know more about we do, please contact us by phone



To contact us phone 01934 414455, email: [bmeproject@srec.org.uk](mailto:bmeproject@srec.org.uk)  
or write to us at Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1JY

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