

healthwatch Suffolk

BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC & DIVERSITY
GROUP

Healthwatch Suffolk - Who are we?

- **Consumer champion for health & social care in the county**
- **Independent county wide organisation**
- **Not for profit, funded by the Department of Health via the Local Authority who are required to commission a local Healthwatch**

Where we came from

Health & Social Care Act 2012

- Healthwatch England - a department of the Care Quality Commission
- Local Healthwatch in every County and Unitary Borough
- Each local Healthwatch is different reflecting the difference in demographics between areas
- We use the patient, public & carer voice in improving & shaping services locally



What we do

- ✓ **Information & Signposting**
- ✓ **Improve services by listening to local people's feedback about their experiences of local health & social care services**
- ✓ **Use our influence and statutory powers to make positive change happen**

BME & Diversity group

A regular monthly meeting hosted at various locations around the County.

This group concentrates on health and social care inequalities experienced by different minority ethnic groups and seeks to bring these to the attention of the appropriate bodies for action.

Attended by volunteers and third sector organisations as well as NHS providers and Public Health.

SMALL GRANTS SCHEME: history

- **Historical £10k set aside**
- **Decision to use it to fund organisations already engaging with BME & diverse groups - ‘biggest bang for our bucks’**
- **Encouraged partnerships**

PROCESS

- **Peanuts - so a simple & straightforward application process**
- **Only one partnership application received**
- **Selection Panel**
- **Workshop held**

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS & PROGRESS

- ✓ International Women's Group - Bury St Edmunds
- ✓ ISCRE/Community Praxis/Kings UK Ltd - Newmarket
- ✓ OASIS Community Centre - Ipswich
- ✓ TIP (Translation & Interpreting Provider - Ipswich
- ✓ 4YP - Ipswich
- ✓ St Elizabeth Hospice - Ipswich & East Suffolk
- ✓ Suffolk Refugee Support - Ipswich

OBJECTIVES of Scheme

- ✓ **Building Better Relationships**
- ✓ **Feedback from under-represented communities within Suffolk**
- ✓ **Sustainable engagement with these communities for Healthwatch Suffolk**

CHALLENGES/LEARNING

- **Disappointed but not surprised by lack of partnership applications**
- **Further money invested for translation**
- **Fitting it in with the ‘day job’**
- **Consider Match Funding for future Small Grants Schemes**

WHAT WE'VE GOT SO FAR ...

- ✓ Better understanding of Healthwatch & our role
- ✓ Closer relationships with organisations supporting BME & diverse communities
- ✓ PLUS whatever findings & next steps resulting from projects

\$64000 QUESTION:

WILL WE DO IT AGAIN?

YOU BET!