

ELREC Newsletter

Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council
Promoting Racial Equality and Fighting Racial Discrimination



Issue 4
June 2005

ELREC MANAGEMENT BOARD

Honorary President
Prof Geoff Palmer OBE
Chair
Prof Braj P Sinha
Vice Chair
Foysoil Choudhury MBE
Secretary
Amjad Chaudhry
Treasurer
Amjad Chaudhry
Company Secretary
Steve Kent
Ordinary Board Members:
Shah Noor Chowdhury
Emma Crawshaw
Mark Kennedy
Cllr Shami Khan
Ijaz Nazir
Girijamba Polubothu
Trishna Singh
Naren Sood
Shaheen Unis

ELREC Annual General Meeting 2005

Wednesday 13 July 2005
6:30 to 8:30 pm
St Columba's by the Castle
14 Johnstone Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2PW

Guest Speakers:

Cathy Peattie MSP, Convener of Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee
Tim Hopkins, Equality Network

Theme:

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Everyone is welcome.

For further information, please contact ELREC's office on 0131 556 0441 or e-mail admin@elrec.org.uk

Seminar on Employment, Education and Career

ELREC is delighted with the success of the seminar held on 23 April 2005 at Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh. 100 people attended the seminar with a total of 12 speakers representing organisations such as CRE, HBOS plc, City of Edinburgh Council, Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service, STUC, Chambers of Commerce, University of Strathclyde, University of Edinburgh, Careers Scotland, and the Scottish Executive.

The seminar was inaugurated by the Lord Provost Lesley Hinds. We are very thankful to our sponsors: Scottish Enterprise, Lloyds TSB, Scottish Executive, Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service, Lothian Buses and City of Edinburgh Council. One comment from a participant summed up the conference particularly well, "Overall, all the sessions were good and speakers provided information and supports available to

eliminate the racism and discrimination. We all should try to get together and stop the racism and be positive without thinking of background or colour."

ELREC is in discussion with the participating organisations to discuss ways forward to address the issues raised by the participants.



Inside this issue:

<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service</i>	3
<i>Youth Zone</i>	4
<i>Heartstone Festival</i>	6
<i>Lothian & Borders Police</i>	7
<i>Contact Details</i>	8

Editorial

Welcome to the fourth issue of ELREC Community Newsletter.

The newsletter aims to bring our readers news and information about the work and changes of ELREC as well as the latest development in the race equality field.

In the recent months, ELREC has been extremely busy with recruitment, holding a national seminar and preparing for our forthcoming annual general meeting.

Since our last issue, Cathy Murphy, the Administrator has left her post to relocate to Aberdeen. Along with the posts of Complainant Aid Officer and Community Development Officer, the interviews for the post of Administrator will be held in June.

Changing face of City of Edinburgh Council Education and Social Work Services

From April 2005, all of Edinburgh's education services and the children and families elements of social work will be delivered by a new department - The Children and Families Department.

The organisation and delivery of the services will gradually change over the next two years. Included in this newsletter is a leaflet that explains which services will be covered by the new department. The leaflet also explains how you can contact the department for more information.

In the last issue we highlighted the Race Equality Strategy currently being implemented by the Children and Families Department. As part of the strategy, individual school is expected to have in place a race equality policy. To obtain a copy of your child's school race equality

policy, simply contact your child's school. If you have any difficulty in getting a copy, please inform us.

Community Safety Action Plan

BME Community Safety Working Group is currently developing an Action Plan. The working group is part of Edinburgh Community Partnership which aims to help make Edinburgh a place where people can live, work and visit without fear for their own or other people's safety.

The Action Plan will cover the following areas:

- Supporting accident prevention, fire and home safety
- Reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol
- Reducing the incidence of violence, housebreaking and other forms of anti-social behaviour

The free home safety check being offered by Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service is an example of an action being implemented by a member organisation.

Another example of the Action Plan would be to target children and young people (aged 8-25) with personal safety initiatives as a means to reduce violent crimes against the most vulnerable individuals and communities.

The Action Plan covers a wide range of aspects that could affect our safety at home or at work. Your views and input to this Community Safety Action Plan is vital and we would encourage any individual or organisation who is interested in promoting community safety to join the BME

Community Safety Group. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18 August 2005.

Membership Reception

Acting on the views and feedback gathered at our recent membership reception in March, ELREC will be organising a series of lectures to be held throughout the year. The subjects to be covered will include, Criminal Justice and Children and Families Services. Please note that these lectures will be exclusively for our members. If you are not a member, I would encourage you to apply now. Membership is available to both organisations and individuals who share our aims and ethos.

*By Nina Giles
Director*

WHAT'S ON

Employment Information Days

23 June 2005 (women only)
30 June 2005 (young people)
10am to 1:30pm
McDonald Road Library

CEMVO's Capacity Building Programme Launch

27 June 2005, 12:00 noon
Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

ELREC AGM

13 July 2005, 6:30 to 8:30pm
St Columba's by the Castle
14 Johnstone Terrace

BME Community Safety Working Group

18 August 2005, 2:00pm
City Chambers

Edinburgh Mela

3rd and 4th September 2005
Pilrig Park

Leadership and Participation Course

The Leadership and Participation Training was a joint initiative by Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council and the Centre for Human Ecology. The course was designed to encourage more Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) individuals becoming Community Activists. It was based on the 'Training for Transformation' / popular education approach. It offered a unique and life-changing learning experience for community activists from all walks of life to become more effective in their particular activism.

A taster session was held on 16 December 2004. Followed by the full ten week course delivered from 20 January to 7 April 2005.

The Course covered areas such as:

Individual Empowerment

- Leadership skills
- Communication skills
- Listening skills
- Valuing people's life experience, values and culture
- Building commitment and unfolding each person's passion
- Strengthening people's meaning in life and sense of belonging in Scotland

Human Relations and Group Work Skills

- Trust building and dialogue
- Participatory decision-making processes
- Team work
- Facilitation skills
- Group dynamics

Participation in Civic Society

- Having a voice in decision-making
- Structures of power in the community
- Representing one's community



- Policy framework
- Campaigning skills

10 people completed the course. Foysool Choudhury MBE, Vice-chair of ELREC, presented the awards to the "graduates". They celebrated their success by enjoying each others music, songs and poems.

The participants expressed that the Leadership and Participation course provided them with invaluable knowledge and skills enabling them to be confident to participate and be involved in their respective communities or the community as a whole.

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service Connecting with BME communities

Last year in the Lothian and Borders area there were in excess of 1100 accidental dwelling fires. The effects of which can have a devastating effect on the community.

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service are now offering a free home safety check service where operational firefighters take a proactive role in an attempt to prevent fires from happening.

During the home safety check firefighters, who work in pairs, advise householders on fire safety matters such as the safe use of electrical appliances, smokers

materials and candles. They also highlight the potential hazards with cooking. The firefighters will also stress the importance of having a working smoke alarm and will supply and fit, free of charge, and 10 year smoke alarms where required.

We also have community firefighters who are responsible for the coordination and delivery of community safety projects and campaigns in the areas they work in. This involves liaison with various community groups and the delivery of talks and information to them. These links are imperative if our aim to reduce the impact of fires on the communities we serve is to be achieved.

To ensure language does not present a barrier with offering our service to all, we have general fire safety booklets in 12 translations and can obtain more on request. We, in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh translation service, produce in-house leaflets for specific cultural events such as Diwali.

In addition to these services, Lothian and Borders Fire Stations are already embarking on a series of initiatives with black and minority ethnic communities.

As part of their routine work, each Fire Station in our area will participate in a variety of events which will allow our organisation to interact with the people they serve.

This will provide excellent opportunities for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, the firefighters at your local station and our BME communities to learn more about each other.

To arrange a **free home safety check** or for further information on fire safety issues please do not hesitate to phone **0800 169 0320**.



The youth Zone is now open on Friday's from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Along with the usual slot of Thursdays from 3.30pm to 7.00 pm

This extension of services has been thanks to the award of the Ooshla funding through the Big lottery.

The funding situation is not fantastic for the sustainment of the Youth Zone. This is an area I am continuously working on, as many of you will be aware most monies are either short term or the funding criteria has implications on the delivery of the service. But not all is doom and gloom!! Where there's a will there's a way!

I am particularly pleased to inform you that the Youth Zone continues to attract new members and strives to be as accommodating as possible for the needs of all those involved.

I have been speaking to the young people at the Youth Zone and collated some of their comments.....

Youth Zone members comment on 'their' space

"its good eh!"

"I think its quite good, especially for teenagers 'cos they get quite a lot of problems and sometimes school can get hectic and they need some place to chill. Basically the Youth Zone is good and it has a lot of stuff to do in it."

"you can socialise without prejudices"



"Being part of the Youth Zone I've learnt about boundaries in a BME environment. It opened up my attitude towards the culture, I have more respect for it. And more respect for peoples views and attitudes and understand why people act the way they do."

"A lot of fun, good and cool"

"we get listened to and our suggestions really do happen, like we wanted to go to the fair and we went ."

"I meet other people and I like that"

Some young people in the Youth Zone commented on their feelings about being young and living in Edinburgh.....

"I've grown up in a small family of 8 members and I don't have any relatives in Edinburgh. I am used being around older white people, as my interests have exposed me to be that way. I do a lot of out door sports, which I have learned is out of the ordinary amongst recent friends I have made. This isn't like me to socialise in such a mixed BME social circle.

I feel a bit strange as if people are going to judge me, I've been brought up to mix with boys and girls and express my opinions quite openly. In this environment people are prone to judge because their upbringing has been quite different from mines."

"People always have such high expectations YOU. Even my friends say stuff like are you gonna get an arrange marriage, basically they put me in a group."

"White people and our elders think that we should be how people are back home and carry on the tradition and culture. But they can't put us in a western world and expect us not to modernise otherwise

The Youth Zone has offered support to many young people and continues to do so, not only on a one to one basis but also through inviting guests, suggested by the young people .

The guests speak about their project or work they do in a very informal and receptive approach, so the young people can choose to participate, gain relevant information and follow up if they need to.

We have found this approach to be appropriate and effective in the Youth Zone space.

Most importantly the young people find the informal approach to be a

Reaching Out Programme

Lots of great work going on across the city for BME young people.

The Reaching Out is about beginning to pull together the workers who deliver this invaluable service and to raise and address some of their concerns and issues.

At the beginning of June I hosted the first Practitioners Exchange meeting for workers who have contact with BME

better way of accessing information that is on their terms

Recently the Youth Zone has hosted the following guests and been involved in the projects

- Black Ethnic Minority Inclusion Project by Education Dept.
- Health & Me NHS Health
- Fast Forward, Peer Education Project
- Careers Scotland
- SCVO reseach session
- Edinburgh Leisure
- Wayne McCollins - Fire Service
- Procurator Fiscal
- Kade Moncrieff-Volunteering Scotland
- Visit to Radio Forth
- MegaPlex outing

young people.

This meeting was to bring together workers in the same arena who share similar interests and goals in their work. After speaking to some workers working with BME young people I concluded that, generally there is a census that workers are so busy with their own work and demands that there is little time to extend their role in networking. However, there is a need and demand for the networking part of their work.

I am pleased to report that the meeting was a huge success, with great support and enthusiasm for developing a collaborative approach in the delivery of youth services to BME young people.

The discussion that took place

WHAT'S ON

SUMMER OUTING For Youth Zone Members

Towards the end of July the Youth Zone will be going to **BLACKPOOL**

It will be a full day outing, travelling by coach. We plan to leave early in the morning and come back late at night.....the main thing to bring is lots of energy and be prepared to have fun!!

during the meeting was about what workers are looking for from the Exchange. Some of the suggestions were

- Skills development
- Networking
- Strategic planning
- Legislation
- Voice for BME young people

As this is at the initial stage of forming the Network Exchange we are open to suggestions for development and I am particularly keen to involve as many participants as possible.

The next meeting will be on 31st August from 11.00 am to 1.00pm at ELREC offices. A vegetarian lunch will be provided. If you are interested or would like to discuss your participation please contact me.

*By Aisha Sohail
Youth Development Officer*



**The Heartstone Festival
The Assembly Rooms
and Holyrood Park,
Edinburgh
24th and 25th June, 2005
10am-5pm**



**The Four Hosts of Festival of
Flight Presentation
10am-1pm
Saturday 25th June 2005**

The Heartstone Festival of Flight is a unique new photographic exhibition and live event intended to take its audience on a journey designed to bring them closer to the world of those who are drawn to the magic of the skies. It charts the development of powered flight from the starting point in myths and legends, how the dream was turned into a reality, pioneers – including some key figures who are less well known but who had a significant role to play, ultimate examples of aircraft technology today, the men and women behind them and the passion to fly which links pilots from every part of the world regardless of nationality, culture or background.

The Four Hosts of Festival of Flight (described below) will come together at 10am on Saturday 25th June to take part in the opening ceremonies on the day together with **Minister Malcolm Chisholm, Minister for Communities in Scotland**. The ceremonies include a parachute drop by the Golden Lions Display Team with the Festival of Flight flag and the flying of giant kites made by children and young people from across Scotland.

The Four Hosts Presentation

Festival of Flight is presented through four hosts who will come together on the morning of 25th June and who, between them, span much of the globe:

- the present-day RAF Chief of the Air Staff, Sir Jock Stirrup /

Assistant Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Chris Moran;

- Lt. Col. Herbert Carter, of 99th Squadron Tuskegee Airmen fame;
- Donald Rowlands, Aboriginal elder, a pilot and also Head Ranger for Queensland Territory, Australia;
- dancer, Sitakumari, who has brought to life many of the world's stories through her unique brand of storytelling.

The famous **Golden Lions Parachute Display Team** will open the programme on Saturday 25th June at 10am with a spectacular parachute drop with the flag to represent the Festival of Flight designed by the children of Leith Primary School.

This will be followed by the flying of giant kites decorated with the stories of flight made by the many different cultural communities resident in Scotland, children and young people. These kites will be on display at the Assembly Rooms on both days.

The flag will be carried to the Assembly Rooms, where the presentation by Minister Malcolm Chisholm and the 4 Hosts will commence culminating in one of the dance-drama themes from the show 'Garuda' led by Sitakumari.

The centre piece of the Heartstone Festival of Flight is the photographic exhibition which presents a new journey through the world of flight. Heartstone's photographer, Nick Sidle, has been given access to air bases throughout the UK via the RAF to create the 'ultimate flight' section of the exhibition.

Alongside the exhibition will be artwork from children and young people from across Scotland in 6 locations on the themes covered through Festival of Flight, the need to challenge prejudice and intolerance and build on the similarities of peoples rather than their differences.

In Edinburgh, the project has been funded through the Community Safety Partnership and involves the Indian

Association, the Pakistani Association, the Nepali Association, Saheliya, the WELCOME project, the Chinese Association and the Bangladeshi Association. This element of the project has been carried out in partnership with Lothian & Borders Police who will be present throughout the event.

The national programme has been funded by the Scottish Executive, the Big Lottery Fund, 6 local authorities and other local funders and is presented in association with **Flight International**.

For more information, contact:

**Sitakumari OR Gordon
MacPherson – Tel: 01349
865400 (mob: 07801 055587)**

**Heartstone, Mayfield, High
Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire
IV15 9SS**

**Email: info@heartstone.co.uk ;
fax: 01349 866066**

EDINBURGH STAIR PARTNERSHIP Protect Your Investment

Do you own a flat and are you concerned about getting repairs done? Do you want to make sure that your tenement is attractive to future house buyers?

It is often difficult to arrange for common repairs with your neighbours, however the Edinburgh Stair Partnership (ESP) can help you.

ESP is the council's own property management service for homeowners; and offers a simple and cost-effective solution to getting repairs and ongoing maintenance organised. It's the perfect way to protect your investment.

This is how it works: initially, the ESP will carry out a survey of a tenement and send out a report to all the owners. An evening stair meeting is then arranged; so that the survey findings can be discussed

with qualified ESP staff, and an indication given of the state of the building and what priority would be recommended for different repairs. Later, if all owners agree, a management contract is signed.

ESP staff then cost out potential repairs. Importantly, it is the owners themselves who decide on the timing and level of repairs; which can be spread over several years. ESP however provides guidance on prioritisation and ways to make repairs more cost effective.

The ESP then, saves owners time and money by sourcing contractors from the council's own approved list, collating quotes and ensuring you get the best value. Moreover, it also collects monies from owners so that works can begin.

In addition, works 'on site' will be regularly inspected by ESP surveyors and checked on completion. Whilst all owners will have access to an ESP property manager who will keep them informed of progress.

Owners pay a nominal annual management fee of £58.75 per flat, (which gives them an annual inspection and report) plus 5% of the value of any repairs over £4000.

Trevor MacDonald, manager for the ESP says: "Increasingly potential house buyers are looking more closely at how tenement flats are managed and the state they are in before deciding to buy. Increasingly flat owners are setting up owners associations, maintenance funds and employing property managers to help them manage their tenements. The Edinburgh Stair Partnership is about flat owners and the Council coming together to work out who best to manage your tenement and protect its value for the future. Over the last two years Partnership has grown considerably and now involves nearly 110 tenements and 1,000 owners across the city."

For more information on ESP Tel 0131 529 7234 – or log onto www.edinburgh.gov.uk/esp

Lothian & Borders Police



Force Communications Centre

The £10.4m communications centre at Bilston Glen Midlothian took its first calls from the public on Sunday 8th February 2004.

All 999 calls from across the Lothians and Scottish borders are routed to the new state-of-the-art building.

Non-emergency calls from Edinburgh, Midlothian, West and East Lothian are also taken at the centre and non-emergency calls from the Scottish borders will be taken later in the year.

The centre represents a fundamental change to service delivery in the region and in the nature of the Force's communications.

The range of services has increased and this has reduced the demand on operational policing and simplified the means of contacting police.

More than 300 staff work round the clock at the centre making it the largest police communications centre in Scotland.

It is a pioneering step for policing in Scotland and is a significant undertaking drawing on advanced technologies and working practices that place Lothian and Borders Police at the forefront of modern police service delivery.

On an average day the centre receives 3,000 non-emergency calls, around 400 emergency 999 calls and records 800 incidents.

Existing control room staff have transferred and extra operators have been recruited to give a team of professional and dedicated workers providing the best level of service to the public. More support staff are being recruited in the near future.

The centre also houses the forcewide Public Assistance Desk and the centralised Crime and Road Accident recording service.

The prime contractor for the I.T solution was Frequentis.

The centre was built by HBG construction and designed by Bradford Robertson Architects. The project was completed on time with work starting in January 2003 and finishing in December that year and ran within budget.

"This superb new facility at Bilston has achieved a transfer of business on a scale never undertaken before by a police force in Scotland with all our telephone and radio communications in one purpose built location. At a time when demands on the police are increasing all the time a modern facility like this can only enhance the service we provide to the public in the Lothians and Scottish borders. It represents a significant investment by the force which will reap benefits for the public with improved service delivery."

Paddy Tomkins, Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders Police

Back Page Information



ADVERTISING

We welcome organisations to advertise on ELREC Community Newsletter, for example:

- Promoting services
- Disseminating flyers
- Advertising
- Vacancies
- Consultations
- General marketing

This service is available for a contribution of £100.

To find out more, please contact Nina Giles on 0131 556 0441 or admin@elrec.org.uk

The newsletter is available on a quarterly basis.

CONFERENCE ROOM BOOKINGS

You can book our 20-seat meeting room on an hourly basis for £10 per hour

Tea & Coffee £1 per head

Please contact the office for any bookings

DONATIONS

ELREC is a registered charity in Scotland. We welcome donations however small, from individuals or organisations to help us to pursue our goal - *racial equality and justice for all.*

If you would like to share any interesting fundraising ideas with us, please give the office a ring.

SERVICES

Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC), founded in 1971, is a voluntary body and charitable company made up of individual members and representatives from a wide range of organisations. ELREC has a remit to work across the areas of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.

We aim to:

- Work towards the elimination of racial discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups
- Promote and organise co-operation of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations

We pursue our aims through:

- Individual Complainant Aid Service
- Education and Training
- Campaigning
- Publications
- Consultancy and Signposting

OUR TEAM

■ **Nina Giles - Director**
 ■ **Complainant Aid Officer***
 ■ **Community Development Officer***
 ■ **Aisha Sohail - Youth Development Officer**
 ■ **Mara Menzies - Youth Zone Support Worker**
 ■ **Administrator***
 ■ **Shelley Kelly - Clerical Assistant**
 ■ **Tracy Pan Shuang - Volunteer**
 ■ **Rafaela Melendez Buendia - Cleaner**

* Under Recruitment