

Merton Council

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

Membership

Councillors:

Edith Macauley MBE (Chair)
Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE
Marsie Skeete
Slawek Szczepanski
Hina Bokhari
Jenifer Gould
Nick McLean

Substitute Members:

Laxmi Attawar
Max Austin
Kirsten Galea

Date: Tuesday 6 December 2022

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For more information about the agenda please contact diversity@merton.gov.uk or telephone [020 8545 4637](tel:02085454637).

All Press contacts: communications@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3181

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

6 December 2022

1 Agenda

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Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

Merton Council

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

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Substitute Members: Laxmi Attawar, Max Austin, Kirsten Galea,

Ethnic Minority Organisations

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| African Educational Cultural & Health Organisation (AECHO) Deputy | Revd Mrs H Neale |
| Ahmadiyya Muslim Association | Mr .H.Nawaz |
| Asian Diabetic Support & Awareness Group | Mrs N. Shah |
| Asian Elderly Group of Merton | Mr M S Sheikh |
| Asian Youth Association | |
| BAME Voice | Revd Mrs H Neale |
| Bangladeshi Association of Merton Deputy | Mr. N. Islam |
| Bengali Association of Merton Deputy | Mr J Choudhury |
| Bengali Women's Association of Merton | Mr Rahman |
| British Muslim Association of Merton | Mrs M Ahmed |
| Ethnic Minority Centre | Mr B. Afridi |
| Euro Bangla Federation Deputy | Mrs Sabitri Ray |
| London South West Chinese Community Association | Dr Haque |
| Merton African Organisation | Mr Q Anwar |
| Merton Somali Community | Ms L Saltoon |
| Mitcham Filipino British Association Deputy | Mr C J Lusack |
| Merton and Lambeth Citizen's Advice Bureau | Mr A. Ali |
| Pakistan Cultural Association of Merton & Wandsworth | Ms Colquhoun |
| Pakistan Welfare Association Deputy | Ms C Batallones |
| Positive Network | Ms S Hudson |
| Polish Family Association | Mr M A Shah |
| South London Somali Community Association | Mr S U Sheikh |
| South London Tamil Welfare Group | |
| Victim Support Merton and Sutton | Ms G Salmon |
| West Indian Families and Friends Association | Mr S Szczepanski |
| Wimbledon Mosque | Mr A Musse |
| | Dr PArumugaraasah |
| | Ms J Davidson |
| | Mr T Sandiford |
| | Mr N Din |

Date: Tuesday 6 December 2022

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Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

6 December 2022

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Declarations of Interest | - |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | - |
| 3 | Minutes of previous meeting | 3-10 |
| 4 | Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Zoe Gallen, Lead for Domestic Abuse and VAWG, LBM | 11-20 |
| 5 | Police update – Inspector Andrew Martin, Metropolitan Police | - |
| 6 | Windrush 75 th Anniversary planning – Evereth Willis, Equality and Community Cohesion Officer, LBM | 21-24 |
| 7 | Any Other Business | - |

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Agenda Item : 3

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS

18 October 2022

Present: Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair), Councillor Marsie Skeete,

Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, Councillor Slawek Szczepanski, Councillor Jenifer Gould
Councillor Nick McLean,

Councillor Ross Garrod, Councillor Stringer, Councillor Joan Henry, Councillor Cooper-Marbiah,
Rev. Hannah Neale, Evereth Willis, Beau Fadahunsi, Michael Lorde, Mr Sheikh.

Abayeh Savage, Dr Arumugaraasah, Grace Oyerinde, John David, Lisa Lyna Ofosu-Asare,
Sivapragasam Shivaranjith, Shaun Buchanan, Fitzroy Dawson, Logie Lohendren, Nadra Gadeed,
Octavia Lamb, Bolu Sodipo, Amada Roberts, Heather Begg

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2. **Apologies**

Mr Shah, Mrs Shah, Jane McSherry

3. **Minutes**

Agreed.

4. **The Administration's Priorities - Councillor Ross Garrod, Leader of the Council**

Councillor Garrod thanked the JCC members for their work over the years and particularly through the pandemic and providing support at Galpins Road.

Councillor Ross Garrod presented an overview of his Administration's priorities and spoke about Civic Pride. He grew up in Mitcham and knows the borough well. Councillor Garrod is proud to come from Merton and considers it to be a borough of great opportunities, good open spaces, and educational opportunity. He wants to restore pride in the borough. There is a thriving voluntary sector and the council wants to build on that and unlock potential to ensure all residents can achieve and progress. The Administration's priorities are:

1. **Civic Pride** – cleaner streets, building the relationship with the voluntary sector and engendering collectiveness and volunteering
2. **Build a sustainable future** – encouraging more people to own electric vehicles and bikes, achieving the net zero ambition, sustainable development
3. To be a **Borough of Sport** – there is a legacy and history of sport, Mitcham's cricket pitch is the oldest in England, Merton also host the Wimbledon Tennis tournament and has AFC Wimbledon

Merton wants to lever the rich sporting history of the borough to work together with communities to give free sporting sessions for residents. Being active provides health benefits and helps with leadership skills and teamwork.

The council wants to work closely with the JCC to ensure it's policies benefit all residents.

Questions/Comments

Q: What community support is there for Fathers to run support sessions for fathers?

A: Two Civic Pride funding pots have been launched and organisations are encouraged to apply.

Q: Can people relate to and understand what is meant by 'Civic Pride'?

A: Civic Pride is a big portfolio and focuses on important issues, such as building up communities, the voluntary sector, the high streets and ensuring everyone feels part of the borough in terms of equality and diversity. It is about encouraging a sense of pride and restoring the connection in the borough.

C: There are still divisions across the borough and deprivation is still evident. There are not many activities and collaboration in Mitcham. Segregation is still there. Therefore, the Civic Pride terminology should not be used.

A: Having a cabinet member helps to foster pride and make people to feel connected. The All-England Tennis Club was asked to erect a large screen in Mitcham to show tennis during the Wimbledon fortnight. The council needs to do work to make people feel part of the positive things happening in the borough.

C: It is a good idea to have a dedicated Cabinet Member and to attempt to address issues.

C: It is up to the public to come together and talk to the council.

C: Civic Pride is good but in Mitcham before we can talk about pride there needs to be honesty and build a reason to be proud. The council needs to deal with civic connectivity, civic pride is not the most appropriate thing. People on the streets are not quite there yet. Mitcham town centre needs work to bring it to the standard of Wimbledon. There needs to be levelling up first.

A: The Cabinet role is about focusing on bringing agencies together to think holistically about how we can make our residents feel proud. The focus is on restoring pride.

Q: What policy work is being done to support Black men in leadership roles and initiatives to improve education and social care within Merton?

A: The Cabinet is committed to levelling up all parts of the borough and feels the benefits. Inequalities has a big focus under Civic Pride and the council will continue to support initiatives and committees such as the JCC to ensure everyone can fulfil their potential.

5. The Bowel Cancer Screening Programme - Lisa-Lyna Ofosu-Asare, Health Improvement Specialist, St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Lisa-Lyna gave a presentation on bowel cancer and the importance of bowel screening. Lisa-Lyna shared the following highlights:

- 4th most common cancer in the UK.
- 2nd cause of cancer deaths. Around 16,000 deaths a year
- More common over 60 years old.

- 98% of people with bowel cancer live for over 5 years if caught early.
- 50% of bowel cancer cases are linked to lifestyle risk factors
- Over 42,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer, every year in the UK
- 1 in 15 men and 1 in 18 women will be diagnosed with bowel cancer during their lifetime

Not everyone with bowel cancer will have symptoms and these may vary:

- A persistent change in bowel habit, especially going more often or looser for several weeks.
- Bleeding from the anus and/or blood in your poo.
- A Lump or pain felt in the lower abdomen (tummy).
- Unexplained weight loss
- See the GP if persistent for more than TWO weeks

Lisa-Lyna outlined the bowel screening programme:

- Men and women aged 60 to 74 are screened every 2 years
- Men and women aged 75 and over can request a screening kit
- Currently age extension includes 56-year-olds and 58-year-olds.
- It involves a stool test (FIT), looks for hidden blood in the stool
- It can help identify polyps which may develop into cancer, these can be removed (cancer prevention)
- Test is done at home and posted for analysis

It is important to encourage men to take part in the screening programme. Often people receive the test kits and do not do it.

Questions/Comments

Q: There are barriers to participation from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and males. What can the council do to break down the barriers?

A: Health promotion is important and attending community events. There are also leaflets in different languages.

Q: Are there any Tamil speaking people at St Georges to do a presentation to the Tamil community?

A: There are interpreters that can attend the events. Lisa-Lyna is happy to attend events.

Q: How much work is done on prevention?

A: The bowel screening programme is linked to prevention. Smoking, obesity, and alcohol increase the risks. It is important to raise awareness of lifestyle choices and understanding how the screening programme works. The screening enables more extensive tests to be done to remove pre-cancerous cells. The screening programme is a major preventative measure.

6. Overview of the Integrated Care System – Nadra Gadeed, Engagement and Equalities Lead – Merton and Wandsworth, South-West London Integrated Care System

Nadra Gadeed presented an overview and outlined the benefits of the Integrated Care System.

The Southwest London Integrated Care System (ICS) was launched on 1 July 2022. The ICS has four purposes:

1. improving outcomes in population health and healthcare
2. tackling inequalities in outcomes, experience and access
3. enhancing productivity and value for money
4. supporting broader social and economic development

The Southwest London Integrated Care System has brought health and care partners closer together, to make sure local people receive the best care. New legislation, outlined in the 2022 Health and Social Care Act, makes it easier for GPs, hospitals, mental health, social care, community services, and the voluntary sector to work together more closely.

More effective partnership working can help to: support people to live healthier and happier lives; prevent ill-health; keep people independent for longer; and take action together to address the wider determinants of health. Examples of these wider determinants of health are jobs, housing, education and our environment which all have a big impact on health.

Integrated Care Systems (ICS) are made up of two parts:

1. **Integrated Care Boards** decide how the NHS budget for their area is spent and develop a plan to improve people's health, deliver higher quality care, and better value for money
2. an **Integrated Care Partnerships** bring the NHS together with other key partners, like local authorities, to develop a strategy to enable the Integrated Care System to improve health and wellbeing in its area.

Other important ICS features are:

- **Local authorities**, which are responsible for social care and public health functions as well as other vital services for local people and businesses.
- **Place-based partnerships** lead the detailed design and delivery of integrated services across their localities and neighbourhoods. Our place partnerships involve the NHS, local councils, community and voluntary organisations, local residents, people who use services, their carers and representatives and other community partners with a role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the local population.
- **Provider collaboratives** bring NHS providers together to achieve the benefits of working at scale across multiple places and one or more ICSs, to improve quality, efficiency and outcomes and address unwarranted variation and inequalities in access and experience across different providers.

The ICS brings together NHS organisations, local councils, Healthwatch, charities, community and voluntary organisations to improve local health and care services and to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

The South-West London ICS is made up of six 'places' – Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

Benefits of Integrated Care Systems

Collaborating as an ICS helps health and care organisations tackle complex challenges, including:

- Improving the health of children and young people
- Supporting people to stay well and independent
- Acting sooner to help those with preventable conditions
- Supporting those with long-term conditions or mental health issues
- Caring for those with multiple needs as populations age
- Getting the best from collective resources so people get care as quickly as possible.

Questions/Comments

Q: Two ICSs in the Midlands were struggling financially, how is South-West London ICS doing?

A: Across the country there are financial challenges due to Covid, ICSs are trying to balance the books. All public sector partners have the same challenge. This is one of the drivers for working collaboratively and getting value for money.

Q: Who is the Voluntary sector representative in Merton?

A: Merton Connected, Merton Health Together Partnership and Health Watch

7. Merton Civic Pride Programme, Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023/26 – Amanda Roberts, Policy Strategy and Partnerships Officer, LBM/Heather Begg, Commissioning Officer LBM/Tim Catley, Planning Contributions Manager

Amanda Roberts and Heather Begg presented an overview of the Civic Pride fund that has just launched. The Civic Pride (CP) fund was developed using the Working Better Together with Communities framework.

Merton's Civic Pride Programme aims to:

- Invest in and support Merton's local voluntary and community infrastructure.
- Nurture a strong sense of community and reduce inequalities.
- Bring together preventative services that provide information, advice and support in the community to strengthen Merton resident's physical, social, emotional, and economic resilience.

The funding prospectus has four themes:

1. **Services that provide help** - Services that provide emergency assistance to people in crisis and direct help to adults in need
2. **Services that grow strengths and capabilities** - Services that provide good quality information, support and non-accredited advice, accredited advice and casework and specialist and/or legal representation where necessary
3. **Active, supportive communities** - Services that co-design support and solutions with people and communities to help grow their relationships and connections and increase their level of activity.
4. An **Enabling system and Place** - Services that help to support an enabling system and place. This will include voluntary and community sector infrastructure support and the provision of small grants via Merton Giving

Tim Catley gave an overview of the Civic Pride Investing in Neighbourhoods Fund. The fund is for projects that address demands placed on Merton's neighbourhoods by new development such as housing.

The fund is open to organisations and any local resident with an idea that can be delivered by the council. Bids will be assessed against the specific assessment criteria set out for this funding programme. The deadline for applications is 4 November.

Questions/Comments

Q: is £750k shared between the two funding pots?

A: £750k is for investing in neighbourhoods and approximately £5 m is available in total.

C: Thank you to the team for putting the emphasis on small organisations. Small organisations need funding for staff as often they are volunteer led.

C: Councillor Stringer is pleased the team worked with the voluntary sector. £750k is available this year and there will be more available next year from the Community Infrastructure Levy. The voluntary sector funding of £1.6 m per year is Merton's money and a decision was made to increase the available funding.

8. Cost of Living – Octavia Lamb, Policy and Scrutiny Manager, LBM

Octavia Lamb gave an overview of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in Merton and measures the council is taking to support residents:

- 150 Merton households were assessed as being homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days between January and March 2022
- Food bank vouchers are in very high demand across the sector in Merton
- In the last 6 months, there have been 1800 visits to the Merton Community Fridge
- Southwest London Law Centre's debt team have seen a 24% increase in referrals over the past 6 months
- Citizen's Advice Merton and Lambeth (CAML) who offer a range of advice services, are continuing to see a significant increase in demand for advice across the board
- CAML have reported that demand for support is continuing at record high levels and more than ever before, they are unable to support residents who are contacting them. This does not include the hundreds of residents who are unable to get through to Merton Adviceline

What has the Council done so far? :

- Declaring a Cost-of-Living Emergency
- A series of Cost-of-Living events across the borough for residents to access information and support
- A £2 million Cost of Living Fund – details to follow
- Funding Free School Meal Vouchers through school holidays
- Looking at initiatives that help residents reduce heating costs
- Engagement with voluntary sector partners to understand demand and find ways of working together
- Engagement with local businesses and the Merton Chamber of Commerce

The council has given £1m to Sustainable Merton for the Community Fridge. £400k has been used to fund Warm and Well initiatives and events for residents to get advice.

Key aims and dialogue:

- Work with organisations in the JCC to identify and promote any positive work that organisations are already taking with regard to the cost-of-living crisis
- Work with organisations in the JCC to better understand the impact on minority ethnic communities
- Work with the JCC to identify ways of improving engagement on cost of living with minority ethnic groups in the borough, as well as identifying barriers to action
- Encourage partnerships with minority ethnic groups, the Council, businesses and voluntary sector to find sustainable ways of supporting residents through the crisis

Questions/Comments

Q: The Runnymede Trust data breaks down Black Asian and Minority Ethnic demographics to assess the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on different ethnic groups, does Merton have similar statistics? The focus on the individuals benefiting from substantial amount of Civic Pride funding being put forward to tackle marginalisation is good. It would be good to get the detailed breakdown to see where the help is needed.

A: The council will be drilling down to identify the groups in need

C: Councillor Bokhari offered Octavia support through the work of the London Assemblé.

Q: Which part of the borough is most affected?

A: There are pockets of deprivation across the borough but the focus has been on the East.

C: B.A.M.E. communities are not getting enough funding. The people who scream the loudest get funded. It is disheartening and something must be done. More outreach work is needed to do what's right.

A: The need to do more outreach work is acknowledged.

C: Use councillors to get the word out. Councillors have information and can support residents to access what is available.

C: The council needs to do more work to get funding out. What has come from the Government?

Q: How will food vouchers be allocated? How will it be paid and will it be regularly available or is there a limit?

A: Numerous organisations provide food vouchers and parcels that can be taken to The Trussle Trust (Wimbledon Food Bank). There is a limit of 3 vouchers per 6 months but discretion can be used. The Dons Local Action Group also provide up to 8 weeks food and toiletries. The Community Fridge network is redistributing surplus food.

A Food Poverty action plan is being developed. £400k will fund organisations to provide additional support and adaptations in residential homes. A Handy Person service is also available to do small tasks to support vulnerable residents. Also, energy efficiency advice is being provided.

Q: How are we supporting the homeless and the improving employment opportunity?

A: Jobs and skills is something we want to look at as a theme at the cost-of-living Merton Partnership summit in November, we want to take a long-term view.

9. Any Other Business

Windrush 75th Anniversary - Councillor Stringer wants to set up a steering group to plan events next year and asked for volunteers to contact Evereth.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm

Joint Consultative Committee

6th December 2022

Zoe Gallen

Lead for Domestic Abuse and VAWG

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What does Safer Merton do around VAWG?

Safer Merton continues to co-ordinate the partnership approach to respond to VAWG.

This includes:

- The management of the VAWG Strategic Board (quarterly meetings).
- Developing and delivering the annual VAWG Action Plan.
- developed and published a new VAWG Strategy.
- Running the 3 weekly domestic violence MARAC (high risk case panel) meetings.
- Continuing to raise awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) and VAWG across the Council, partnership, and community.
- Ensuring we meet policy and statutory requirements, specifically conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews (two active at present) and co-ordinating the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Safer Merton has established a task group to consider how we develop safe and confidential opportunities for women and girls to share their experience with the Council and partners, providing insight and informing our work on reducing VAWG

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VAWG Strategy

Merton has launched its new Violence against women and girls strategy on 6th December.

This sets out what the borough will do to support anyone experiencing VAWG, domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based violence, sexual violence, this also includes supporting men as victims.

The priorities are:

Partnership Objective 1: Raise awareness and coordinated partnership working

Partnership Objective 2: Prevent VAWG through early intervention

Partnership Objective 3: Support victims, survivors and their children

Partnership Objective 4: Hold perpetrators to account

Partnership Objective 5: Improve the safety of women and girls

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/vawg>

| Type of Abuse | What does this mean? |
|--|--|
| Domestic abuse (including coercive control) | This is when a partner or family member has power and control over their victims and uses abuse to maintain it. Abuse can be physical, emotional, economic, psychological and/or sexual. |
| Rape and sexual violence | Rape is sex without consent. This means that rape isn't just people being physically forced into a sexual act, it also includes pressure that makes someone feel like they have no choice but to have sex or perform/receive a sexual act. |
| Female genital mutilation | This is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non medical reasons. |
| Early and Forced marriage | This is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so. |
| So called "honour" based violence | This is abuse and violence which is carried out in order to protect or defend perceived "honour" of the family and/or community. We are clear that there is no honour in honour-based violence. |
| Faith-based abuse | This is when someone uses religion or faith to justify the abuse of another person, usually a child or vulnerable adult. It could be caused by the perpetrator's belief in witchcraft, spirit or demonic possession, ritual, or satanic abuse. It is not caused by religion or faith. |
| Sexual harassment | This is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which violates someone's dignity, makes someone feel intimidated, degraded, or humiliated and/or creates a hostile or offensive environment. |
| Stalking | This is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention that makes someone feel pestered, scared, anxious, or harassed. |
| Modern Slavery | This is an umbrella term for human trafficking and servitude. It is used when somebody is forced or controlled to do something, and another person gains from this. |
| Prostitution and Sexual exploitation | This is where someone is being coerced or forced into selling sex or performing sexual acts. Victim/survivors may also be trafficked into prostitution. Children, young people, and vulnerable adults may also be sexually exploited and coerced into receiving or performing sexual acts. Abuse of children and adults can include sharing pornographic images and the use of technology. |

Domestic Abuse

DA services

Merton has a community IDVA (independent domestic violence advocate) team supporting victim and survivors. Merton also has a women's refuge.

You can contact the IDVA service on 020 7801 1777 or find more services at:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/domestic-violence>

DA act 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021>

New stat duty to provide support for victims and survivors

New duties around housing

Domestic abuse disclosure scheme – Clare's Law

MARAC

3 weekly case panel discussing the highest risk domestic abuse cases with partners (police, health, probation, social care) to reduce the risk of harm or death. The MARAC discusses around 550 cases a year.

16 days Campaign

- The campaign runs from 25th November with White Ribbon day to 10th December and is a global campaign
- <https://16dayscampaign.org/>

Merton's 16 days against violence and abuse is to raise awareness of services in the borough and to provide training to professionals so they can better support anyone experienced violence and abuse

There will be information in Merton Civic Centre for the whole 16 days.

There will also be information shared on Merton Councils social media pages.

White Ribbon Accreditation

The simple but vital mission behind White Ribbon Day is to prevent violence by men, against women and girls. Why? Because it is a long time coming that something needed to change. Change of long, established, and harmful behaviours around masculinity that perpetuated gender inequality and men's violence against women.

The history behind choosing the date of 25 November was apparently to honour the three Mirabal sisters. They were three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo after opposing his dictatorship. He ordered their assassination on the 25 November.

White Ribbon

We can all make a difference – but sometimes we are not always sure what to do or where to start. White Ribbon Day offers men and women specific ways of making a difference for this important movement. You can:

Make the White Ribbon Promise: Please go online and make the promise - encourage others to do the same – this promise is for all men **to never use, excuse or remain silent about men’s violence against women.** By doing so, you’re becoming part of this wider movement to end violence.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise>



Safer Streets Funding

Merton, Richmond, Kingston and Wandsworth completed a joint bid for funding and was successful.

This has funded projects to ensure people feel safe on our streets with the theme around women and girls safety, changing cultures.

- Boys to men training for professionals working with young men
- Night time economy staff training to help them identify vulnerability and anti sexual harassment
- Night time strategy
- Male survey
- Survivors focus groups
- **Bystander Training for the Community 7th Dec -**
<https://youtu.be/esolkekdDOo>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bystander-training-for-community-tickets-425860920477>

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Any Questions

Contact Safer Merton on safer.merton@merton.gov.uk

Contact Zoe Gallen on zoe.gallen@merton.gov.uk

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Agenda Item : 6

Committee: Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) with Ethnic Minorities

Date: 6 December 2022

Agenda item: 6

Wards: All

Subject: Windrush 75th Anniversary

Lead officer: John Dimmer, Interim Head of Policy and Improvement

Lead member: Cllr Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride

Contact officer: Evereth Wills, Equality and Community Cohesion Officer

Recommendations:

- A. That the JCC notes the update on the Windrush 75th Anniversary steering group meeting held 15 November 2022.
 - B. That the JCC comments on the ideas for commemorating the Windrush 75th Anniversary in Merton.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. June 22 2023 will mark the 75th anniversary of Caribbean migrants arriving in the UK on the Empire Windrush. The council is committed to commemorating the Windrush 75th anniversary on 22 June 2023.
- 1.2. A steering group comprised of councillors, officers and voluntary sector representatives met on 15 November 2022 to start discussions to plan a programme of activities to mark this important milestone in the history of Caribbean people in Merton.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The steering group comprised of officers across the council, councillors and voluntary sector representatives met on 15 November 2022 and came up with ideas for a potential programme of activities in Merton.
- 2.2. Concern was expressed that not everyone affected by the Windrush scandal had received compensation and the borough could consider doing more promotion of the scheme and give details of available support in Merton.
- 2.3. It was proposed that the commemoration/celebration and activities could be split across three themes:
 - Educate
 - Celebrate
 - Heritage

Educate

- Educating residents about the Windrush
- Raising awareness of the compensation available and how to claim
- Schools taking part in Windrush related activities e.g. visiting the Basil Watson Windrush Statue at Waterloo Station
- Poem recitals either at Waterloo or in schools
- Joining up with the Race equality conference – 7th July 2023
- Championing success stories especially as children still experience discrimination

Celebrate

- Celebrate how far Merton has come, whilst still addressing issues
- The journey of where the Windrush generation – past, present and future
- Legacy is valued (yesterday/today/tomorrow)
- Five Aside Theatre have a production about the Windrush which will be performed at the New Wimbledon Theatre.
- A film which captures those who have chosen or found themselves living in Merton which includes a mixture of generations. “Born in XX made my home in Merton”. Could be both a film and poster campaign.

Heritage

- Reflecting on the successes from the Windrush generation
- Highlighting Windrush sporting heritage
- Contribution of the Windrush generation and their heirs
- Showing clips with members of the local Windrush generation, these materials could also be used in school
- Consider a plaque scheme around the borough to commemorate the contribution of Caribbean residents
- Nubian Jak community trust is also a commemorative plaque and sculpture scheme focused on memorializing the historic contributions of Black and minority ethnic people in Britain and beyond.
- Black History Walks – Five-a-side Theatre
- Need to ensure the heritage displays reflect unity in our community
- From Feb 23 – July 23 Five-aside-theatre are hosting afternoon parties focused on Windrush heritage, looking at each decade from 50s to the 90s looking across the generations. During the parties there will be an opportunity to record stories about the Windrush generation which can be used as resources

2.4. The steering group will be working to put on a programme of activities that may be delivered over a few months. A celebratory event on 22 June 2023 could be used to launch the rest of the planned activity with some of the programme coinciding with Black History Month in October 2023. The commemoration of the Windrush 75th Anniversary could include a series of workshops, talks and activities.

2.5. Funding

It is proposed that that the group will work collaboratively with activities that are already taking place across Merton. Mitcham carnival will be held in June 2023

and if there is a procession or parade there could be an opportunity to celebrate the Windrush communities.

- 2.6. Annually, the Government invites bids for Windrush Day funding. In 2019 Merton successfully secured funding for its commemorative events and it is proposed to make an application to the fund when it opens in February 2023.
- 2.7. Businesses will also be approached to seek sponsorship for the programme of activities.
- 2.8. The Merton Giving Fund was highlighted as a possible route for funding – the fund is approximately £10,000 which could be helpful to support the events if a collaborative bid was submitted.

2.9. **Next Steps**

The next steering group meeting will be held 14 January 2023 to agree the programme of activities and agree an approach to securing funding.

- 2.9 The JCC is invited to comment on the suggestions outlined in 2.2 above and consider options for collaboration .

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The council could choose not to commemorate the Windrush 75th Anniversary; however, this would potentially alienate the council from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (B.A.M.E.) communities, particularly those of Caribbean heritage and damage the Council's reputation.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The JCC will be provided with quarterly updates.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The JCC will be given an update on 21 March 2023.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The steering group proposes to develop activities to attract external funding. In particular, it is proposed to bid for the government's Windrush Day fund and collaboration will be encouraged to secure funding from Merton Giving. The group will also be seeking sponsorship from local businesses.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None for this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. By commemorating the Windrush 75th Anniversary the council is acknowledging the important contributions and the legacy of Merton's Caribbean community. Commemorating the anniversary further confirms the council's commitment to promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None for this report

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There is a risk to the Council's reputation if it fails to mark this important milestone in the history of the UK's Caribbean community.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

11.1 None.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None.