

Project Description and Objectives

State of the Sector: Voluntary Community Organisations serving ethnic communities.

Undertake a research project and to produce a robust report into the needs of African and African Caribbean voluntary and community groups and their service users, the issues they face and how the African Caribbean Citizens Forum (ACCF) can more effectively meet these needs.

Benefits Sought.

Contribute to the State of the Sector report.
Provide strategic input into the development of the Annual Delivery Plan.
Contribute data to inform ACCF's Outcomes.
Clearer understanding of community needs.

Proposed Outcome.

"This research will form the baseline for a narrative 'state of the sector' report on African and African Caribbean voluntary and community groups in Leicester and issues affecting African and African Caribbean communities due to be published in November 2011".

How we Delivered

Changing the Process.

Phase 1 involved developing an Evidence Base by collecting data and information from various sources. The steps taken are highlighted below.

Desk research the number of African and African Caribbean groups operating in Leicester.

- Voluntary
Community

Create stakeholder engagement schedule.

Run stakeholder engagement sessions.

- Speak to key people (1-2) from leading groups on Successes, Needs, Data on service provision.

- Speak to community leaders on Relevant history, Progress, Needs and Issues.

- Speak to known elders in the community on Needs and Issues

- Run focus group workshops with relevant community stakeholders (if time allows)

Identify Issues and problems highlighted in the engagement sessions

Prioritise Issues / Problems (Urgency and Importance)

Phase 2 took a more analytical route using the evidence as a basis for conducting the Pilot Study. The activities included:

- Developing a questionnaire/survey based on priorities.

- Identifying a credible sample (a cross section of the community)

- Creating the study schedule

- Conducting the study and collecting the output.

Phase 3 brought the research together into the final Report.

- Compiled and assessed the output from the study.

- Drew conclusions and made recommendations based on the research objectives.

- Compiled the draft report.

- Delivered the report to commissioners for consultation and feedback.

- Post sanction of the content, produced the final report.



Results and Outcomes

The Outcome.

- **First of type Research Project:** Investigating the needs of Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCO) across Leicestershire.
- Designed and carried out research, delivered a report of findings which were presented to stakeholders at the AGM.
- Delivered a bespoke database, used during the research. Ongoing it will improve contact management and performance monitoring.

The Opportunity.

- First project to set a baseline for the level of VCO support for this community.
- Source of information for community development.
- Organisation is now able to analyse community needs and monitor more effectively with the new database.

The Stakeholders.

1. Jamaica Service Group – WISCP
2. We ride Too Academy
3. Leicester African Caribbean Business Association (LACBA)
4. LASS
5. Leicester City Council
6. Telehealth Africa
7. New Testament Church of God
8. Leicester Caribbean Cricket Group
9. Nevis Development Association
Nevis Development Trust
10. Clarion Voice
11. Children & Parents Alliance (CAPtA)
12. Foundation Housing Association
13. Golden Fellowship
14. Barbados Association - sub group of
National Council of Barbados Association
UK
15. The Race Equality Centre - Infrastructure
Body
16. African Caribbean Centre
17. Highfields Community Centre
18. Voluntary Action Leicester (VAL)
19. Leicester Gambia Association
20. Leicester Caribbean Carnival Ltd
21. TREC (Infrastructure body)
22. The Leicester Enterprise Club UK CIC
23. Leicester City Council
Older Persons Mental Health Day Service
(NIA Day Centre)
24. Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia
Research
25. Aqoon Community Education & Training
Service
26. Leicester Nirvana CIC
27. Trinidad & Tobago Social & Cultural
Association
28. New Harvest Community Church Advocacy
Group

- Skills Employed: Project management, Stakeholder engagement, Systems design and development, ICT advice, guidance and support.

End of Case Study.