



Better Connections Project

Third Steering Group Meeting

Thursday 11 July 2024, 7.00 PM at Wonford Community and Learning Centre

Minutes

Present: Mahi Ahmed (ZOOM), Kate Hannan, Muktar Ahmed, Mahsin Mahbub, Mathew Jose Mangatt, Alan Quick, Neomi Alam, Arlene Lewis, Joy Okumbor, Fasihullah Hakimi, Mujeeb Alam, Shahar Lashkor, Edith Chinnah (ZOOM), Emdad Aziz, Harvie Gamotia, James Bogue (ZOOM), Agnieszka Wanowicz, Abhinav Thomas, Sayeed Rohani, Gholam Said

Apologies: Deborah Morgan

1. Welcome & Apologies

Arlene chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies noted above.

2. Minutes from Last meeting

Arlene summarised and presented the minutes from the last meeting, which were sent to the attendees before the meeting.

Actions taken:

- Second Community Panel Meeting took place on 23rd April at WCLC with members of the Filipino Community Association, Nigerian Community Exeter, and All Souls' Day.
- All partner associations have signed the 'Memorandum of Understanding'.
- Mahsin created an event calendar with all community events.
- IE participated in the Exeter Respect Festival on 8th and 9th June.
- Events that took place so far: Exeter Kerala Community - Easter/Vishu/Eid on 13th April, Kerala Sports Day on 30th June, and Afghan Eid event on 30th June.

3. Updating Inclusive Exeter's Better Connections Project work

Drop-ins - Neomi Alam

- Last month had 9 new beneficiaries, with an average target of 5 new beneficiaries each month.



- The overall number of beneficiaries is about 50, up from around 30 at the project's beginning.
- A new volunteer caseworker will join the drop-in from the week commencing 15th June.
- So far, there have been at least 69 different issues helped with.
- The leaflet and website have been updated with new drop-in information.

Actions:

- *Monitor feedback from the beneficiaries.*
- *Mahsin to send list of drop-in issues to the community representators to be circulated among the members.*

4. Update about all partners activities:

1. DBA – (*Devon Bengali Association*)
 - ‘Fruit Festival’ is on hold,
 - Annual Picnic will take place in August outside of Exeter.
2. EKC – (*Exeter Kerala Community*)
 - Onam to be celebrated on 22nd September at Clyst St Mary Hall,
 - Christmas celebration will be in early January.
3. FCA – (*Filipino Community Association*)
 - Annual Sports Fest on July 27th and 28th. Lord Mayor, Cllr Marina and Bindu Arjoon to attend on the 27th at ISCA. Registration time has been extended.
 - Christmas celebration to take place in America Hall on 21st December.
4. NCIE – (*Nigerian Community in Exeter*)
 - Family Fun Day on 21st July at Wonford Community Centre and Playing Field.
 - Cultural Event on 6th October in Exeter Football Stadium (indoor).
5. ACIE - (*Afghan Community in Exeter*)
 - Instead of the Volleyball Tournament, BCP will fund their regular volleyball sessions.
6. Al Souls’ Day – 27th October at St Thomas. Communities need to help with the workshops and food stalls on the day.



Actions:

- *Arlene to share the Sports Fest programme with us.*
- *Aga to create a flyer for All Souls' Day.*

5. Physical Activity Program update (Mahsin)

- Mahsin updated everyone about the current activities; Badminton, Volleyball, Martial Arts and Women's Yoga.
- Emdad emphasised the diverse and inclusive nature of the Badminton sessions.
- Volleyball sessions have waiting list and the participants must be adults.
- Martial Arts was on hold for the month of June but resumed from 13th July.

6. Finance Report (Muktar)

- Muktar has presented the updated Better Connection Project budget. Please see attached.
- Abhinav suggested that we use MS Teams instead of ZOOM.

7. Invitation for the next three events

1. Nigerian Family Fun Day – 21st July
2. Filipino Sports Fest – 27th and 28th July
3. Devon Bengali Association – Annual picnic in August

8. AOB

- Joy to chair the next SGM.
- Mahsin and Mathew to work from 9:30 to 5:30 in WCLC every Tuesday.
- Feedback forms: there are two types of forms that we are using for the events – Organisers' Feedback and Participants' Feedback.

Actions:

- *Mathew to send the Organisers' feedback form to the Joy.*

9. Date and time of the next meeting: Thursday 17th October 2024.