

Black and Minority Ethnic Community Partnership
Community Training And Resource Centre (CTARC)
The STORY SO FAR

October 2007 Edition

ISSUE 7

Some of you have been enquiring about rental of office space within the Centre and I am sure that you are all keen to have an update on the BMECP Community Training and Resource Centre (CTARC). The following is a summary of developments to date.

The Trustees of BMECP are working extremely hard and under difficult circumstances with many stakeholders to ensure such a complicated project comes to fruition successfully and to the satisfaction of all.

As you could imagine with any new building there are always unforeseen challenges especially when involving such intricate negotiations between many stakeholders. The task that BMECP Trustees face is difficult and need delicate negotiation to ensure the aspirations of our communities are met.

At the time of writing and if there are no more unforeseen challenges our professional team advise us that we will be able to start the Fit out in November 2007 with a completion date of March 2008. We anticipate that the CTARC will be Open in April 2008.

One of our many tasks is to establish our Marketing and Sales policies and with the help of our funders and consultants we are presently working on this and as soon as it is ready we will inform all interested parties such as yourselves and would welcome your business on a first come first served basis

We hope this information is of help to you and again thank you for your interest and continued support.

Having been working on this extremely worthwhile project for so long the trustees feel we need to remind ourselves of the many factors that have kept us resolute on this long and rocky journey especially that we are now so near to accomplishing our task that you have so generously entrusted us with.

What is the purpose of the BMECP Community Training And Resource Centre?

The purpose of this project is to create a training and resource centre that will be focused primarily but not exclusively on meeting the needs of Black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in the Brighton and Hove area some of whom face great disadvantage in all areas and extreme isolation. The completed building will be able to support a broad range of activities that are primarily designed to enable the BME communities of Brighton and Hove to participate fully in the economic and social life of the city, although all community led organisations whose aims and objectives are compatible with BMECP will be welcome to make use of its facilities. At least 66% of the available floor space will be given over to activities that support job-related training and enterprise development.

Who will manage the centre?

Overall strategic management of the Centre will be exercised by BMECP through its existing Board of Trustees. The Board comprises of eighteen individuals drawn from a cross section of the BME communities in Brighton and Hove. The Board has a good mixture of public and private sector experience, and those with extensive experience of working in the community sector and of running successful businesses. The running of the Centre will be the responsibility of a Director who will report to the board, The Director will be required to demonstrate general management skills, which must include the ability to manage projects using a recognised methodology. He/She must be able to think strategically and demonstrate Leadership skills as well as being able to lead in the complex environment of the voluntary sector. The post holder will also be required to undertake line management and staff supervision.

When will the centre open?

The timescale that BMECP is working to is as follows:

Oct/Nov	2007	-	Building available for fit out
March/April	2008	-	Completion of fit out
March/April	2008	-	Opening of the Centre

What Services will be delivered at the centre?

The following services are examples of services to be delivered from the Community Training and Resource Centre:

- Training and learning for individuals and groups
- Employment and Enterprise services
- Community development, infrastructure support and research for groups
- Culturally relevant conferences, seminars and events
- Development of strategic partnerships to inform appropriate service provision and infrastructure support

The facilities will include the following:

- Affordable dedicated and flexible office space
- Flexible rooms for training, seminars, workshops, arts and cultural events
- Meeting/Board room
- Community Hub/Meeting Space
- Self service refreshment facilities
- Crèche facilities
- Café
- ICT/Media suite