



THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ON BAME COMMUNITIES

CASE STUDIES

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Brixton Soup Kitchen (April 2020)

Leeds BME HUB (April 2020)

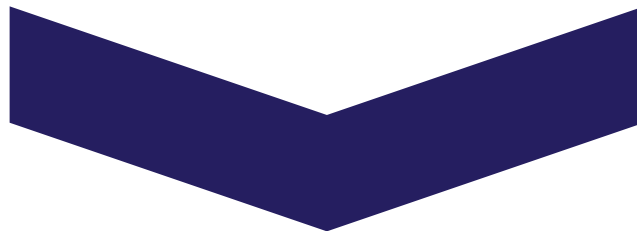
Preston Windrush Generation and Descendants UK - Lancashire
(April 2020)

The North London Community Consortium (April 2020)

Black and Minority Ethnic Environmental Network, Hull
(June 2020)

brap, Birmingham (Summer 2020)

Council of Somali Organisations (September 2020)



If you would like to share your story, please get in touch with us
at info@ubele.org and tell us about:
your challenge, best practice, impact (financial etc).

BRIXTON SOUP KITCHEN



Brixton Soup Kitchen normally caters for between 30-40 homeless people per day as well as people living in local hostels who are unable to cope with daily life.

The normal service includes a breakfast – lunch club, both feeding people and providing a managed community for very vulnerable clients.

Since the Coronavirus emergency, they first moved to a takeaway service, where clients were invited to collect a warm meal at 1pm. They then moved to a delivery service to their most regular clients when stocks were diminished. They are now not providing a service to their clients.

brixtonsoupkitchen.org

LEEDS BME HUB



The Leeds BME Hub is a partnership between Leeds City Council and all local BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) communities. The aim of the Hub is to offer a way for the voice of minority communities to be heard by the decision makers in Leeds City Council.

Leeds BME Hub notes that COVID-19 has highlighted the mistrust of health services by BME communities has been exacerbated by the Covid crisis. They have seen cases where BME people are too scared to go to hospital and when they finally do go, it has been too late. At the very underbelly of the service people are helping out, volunteering informally, rallying around providing for basic needs such as providing food and running errands for vulnerable people.

There has been an increase in hate crimes carried out against Chinese, Pakistani, Indian, Jewish and Afrocaribbean people. Leeds BME Hub states that many small businesses that do not qualify to be furloughed, thus further increasing high unemployment. Emergency funding is available and many of the funders have relaxed their criteria moreover, Leeds CVS has a dedicated funding advice worker who supports organisations with funding queries.

Some progress has been made with a strong network of 'new migrants support groups' as they have been successful in raising funds from the Lottery to provide cultural food for families at home and also getting some IT support for home-schooling.

Annette Morris Manager - Leeds BME HUB

doinggoodleeds.org.uk/bme.html

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PRESTON WINDRUSH GENERATION AND DESCENDANTS UK - LANCASHIRE



Sekeena Kydd and Glenda Andrew

Preston Windrush Generation and Descendants UK is a collective of individuals and organisations who deliver outreach to support vulnerable people in Preston. They focus on the Windrush generation and any of their families members who are low income and in receipt of benefits.

As a befriending service, they're usual activities include speaking to people who feel isolated and shopping and or collecting prescriptions for people who are not able to do so themselves. Before the Coronavirus pandemic, they were looking to raise funds for a support line, this has had to take a back seat as they are having to attend to an increase in clients due to coronavirus. At present they engage with clients via telephone calls, zoom and social media. They are hoping to raise funds to enable them to offer culturally appropriate food packs and emergency support grants for their vulnerable and elderly clients.

prestonwindrush.co.uk

NORTH LONDON COMMUNITY CONSORTIUM



The NLCC is a group of community projects and community enterprises who have been working with local communities to improve the lives of people and who are from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds, with a focus on food.

When the Coronavirus emergency became apparent to them, they quickly arranged a survey in the local community which identified particularly vulnerable community members who needed to be fed.

The initial target group were people over 70 years old who had to self-isolate and were unable to prepare their own hot food. For the past two weeks the group have delivered hot meals to 150 -200 people per day. Recently, they have been contacted by Haringey social services and other statutory services looking for ways to feed clients.

The North London Community consortium have no funding and got through the last two weeks on the good will of their members.

northlondoncommunityconsortium.co.uk

BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK, HULL

Black and Minority Ethnic Environmental Network operates in Hull and their mission is to improve the quality of life for the Black and Ethnic Minority Communities by generating supplementary livelihood through a programme of scheduled activities to engage BME communities.



They work at a grassroots level through listening, sharing, and bringing them together to find solutions to recycling & waste, energy-saving, local food production. They aim to further develop and deliver environmental education-interpretation training programmes to BME groups and centres in Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire. They are not only working with BME communities to develop their life skills in the built and natural environment but also stimulating other stakeholders' involvement to enable them to work effectively with ethnic communities. COVID has seriously impacted on their work because they have been unable to run their food growing workshops and diabetes groups.

bameen.org.uk/

BRAP, BIRMINGHAM



After the first COVID- 19 wave, we are looking at six case studies centring recovery and re-emergence for African, Asian and Caribbean people in the UK.

brap is an equality and human rights charity based in Birmingham. The CEO and director, Joy Warmington, has shared with Ubele its journey through 2020, speaking about challenges and how to remain rooted in the organisations purpose.

brap was founded 21 years ago. Joy has been director and CEO for 19 years of the 21 years that brap has been in operation.

brap has 3 key delivery areas:

- Addressing community needs
- Research and evaluation
- Organisational development and learning

Although based in Birmingham, brap is a national organisation. Joy shared that the organisation has worked hard to develop a national presence which is much easier to do, if you are London based. Most of brap's community based activities are localised in the West Midlands.

brap.org.uk

How have things changed for brap since the onset of COVID-19?

The initial impact of COVID-19 has meant brap lost about 200k's worth of confirmed income.

'We couldn't do face to face work. We had a lot of NHS work programmed in which we have not been able to deliver and things were pretty scary with regard to our survival'.

brap have 10 paid staff, which includes two part-timers:

'We also have some very valued associates and volunteers. We therefore spent a lot of time with each other thinking and planning how to deal with the developing situation. We utilised the Government furlough scheme, from April, to furlough team members as well as office staff.'

There was an initial period of quiet during March and April. This time provided brap with the opportunity to reflect on our work and to learn how we might provide some of our activities online. As part of the learning, Joy and a couple of members of the team did a number of online courses, which helped them to adapt to this evolving virtual world. This time out was beneficial, yet challenging. As a consequence brap have been able to 'get back into the game' and offer a range of online learning.



brap's mission is to 'transform the way that we think about and practice equality', with that recognising that we haven't made as much progress as we should have, and we are not ambitious about what we can achieve.'

Part of how brap operates, is to work in partnership with others and avoid being totally dependent on the grant giving process, which often leaves not-for-profit organisation at the mercy and the whims of politics and locked into a grant giving cycle. However, Joy mused on the fact that as an organisation, even though all the staff are now back at work, 'there is no doubt that our survival has definitely been on the back of the murder of George Floyd in the States. Without the very public murder of another Black man, we do not know if we would have survived as an organisation – and that's a very honest indictment of where we are today.'

The current and immediate future?

Although brap's work has not solely been about Birmingham's local issues, the impact of Black Lives Matter has begun to highlight some community tensions that have been apparent in Birmingham for a while. 'There is a culture of segregation within the city, which the leadership of the city have ignored. We are seeing the emergence of a rise in hate crime and tensions', states Joy. brap has just been awarded some funding from the Emerging Futures Fund, which will help them to directly engage in exploring the future of race relations in Birmingham.

brap's long term future

brap like many other organisations do not have huge reserves and resources. So predicting the future in the current circumstances is difficult. However, Joy was very clear that brap didn't want to deviate from the organisations mission:

'it's the reason we exist...it can be tempting to diversify our mission to survive, but we do not want to change our response and reason to exist. We are well aware that this year's circumstances is a combination of COVID-19 and the death of George Floyd. But historically we know that unfortunately, these moments do pass, and that the economic impact of COVID-19 (redundancies and work patterns) have yet to be fully played out. This will undoubtedly affect our work. When budgets get cut and things are tight, the first areas that get trimmed back are training and development as well as equality and inclusion and these at the core of our work. The future of brap is still evolving, there has been much to think about since March. Many of us have recognised that going back to 'normal' is not desirable, because it maintains the status quo. We need to think about where we are in all this. As an organisation, we will need time to reflect and consider our next move. How can we continue to do what we believe in and do work that makes a difference, without compromise Ubele and our connection with the organisation has been a light in this period of immense challenge. The values and spirit of Ubele, have helped to connect organisations and people, who have dreams about creating a more just society. Please let it continue!'

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS



For this case study we have been speaking with Mr Kahiye Alim the Director of the Council of Somali Organisations (CSO). Yvonne Christie, Ubele Associate, met with Mr Alim in late August 2020, where he shared how the organisation is moving through these unprecedented times.

How long has this organisation been going?

The Council of Somali Organisations (CSO) has been in operation since 2010.

What is CSO's overall aim?

We are a second tier member led organisation. The membership is national. CSO aims to build the capacity of Somali CVO's in the UK and represent the UK Somali Communities at national level in raising their voices and work on policies that affect them.

How have things been going for you and or your organisation in the last few months?

Things are actually going amazingly well as the organisation is expanding. We are currently operating as a team of three. However, five new posts are coming in: An Executive Assistant to the Director, Training, Digital, and Membership Operations Coordinators and a Communication Analyst posts.

Beyond that there is another pipeline with funding applications going in for another 10 positions. That would give a total of just under 20 new project staff. Once the new staff come on stream and settle, I feel that I would have the space and time to do more strategic work on supporting families and children in schools, mental health, youth employment support and criminal justice. CSO will also be developing its website as well as a new UK wide Somali Community Hub & App.

This will enable CSO to highlight and showcase the positive contributions of the Somali Community in the UK and the work of CSO's members in the community.

Currently, one of my biggest concerns is the membership being able to cope with this new influx of grants. I recognised that this 'emergency funding' had been made possible because of the killing of George Lloyd and the COVID-19 situation: So we have these tragic occurrences to thank for this expansion.



These emergencies and developments are funded until the end of the financial year March 2020. CSO's challenge will be to ensure that funding is continued and sustainable. Exploring the size of the staff team expansion and the support during this transition and development period, I felt that having worked in Human Rights Law litigation for over 20 years, the challenges of this work seems pretty viable.

How are you feeling as one of the vulnerable COVID-19 target groups in relation to getting out and operating again? What has changed for you and the team?

I feel that the members are very resilient and flexible, so they just get on with things, and they have adapted well to all that is happening. As CSO is a second tier umbrella organisation, we rely on members adapting at ground level. I am just recalling that some recent applications being supported for funding, have stated that organisations need equipment to deal with the current COVID-19 situation. Therefore, I am assuming that people are adapting their work and work areas. 75% of CSO's current funding stream is focused on capacity building around training and in particular covering COVID-19 related resilience analysis of the needs such as understanding the need of Somali-led Mosques in the UK, support in fundraising and budgeting, developing communication strategies, benefits law, housing law, money and debt as well as mental health awareness.

How are the people you work with and/ or have responsibility for feeling?

I am personally working closely with the membership during the Covid-19 emergency phase. I believe that they have come to trust CSO to support them, and they are building up confidence in themselves and their work. Trust is a two-way process where they tell me their needs, and we tell them what is going on to help them understand the playing field and their needs in a holistic manner. We have brought in the major funders to have direct dialogue with our members through our weekly Fundraising workshops as a confidence building measure. We are also thankful to the NET & UK Communities for providing at the start of the crisis 5 free volunteer bid writers and the London Community Response Fund for funding the free workshops and extra support in bid writing.



What has been noticed is that not having had funding like this before, many of the members are a bit scared to apply for the funding. £20k sounds like a lot of money if you've been making ends meet on nothing or very little. So we support them to tell us what they actually want from the funders, not what they think they would receive. It's both humbling and fulfilling at the same time.

For me and CSO, the issue is more about how to maintain long term funding. What we are getting now is very short term. So before the end of the year, discussions will need to take place with funders to ensure that things can be sustained and go forward. The main areas we need future support around is long term core funding such as the key operational posts. Once I have finished this wave of funding capacity building with the CSO membership, I will begin to look at the sort of budget required to sustain the aforementioned key posts. Some organisations in fact are missed the different waves of funding because of the deluge of short deadlines but there will still be opportunity for 3rd wave funding and I will continue to support organisations along with Tebussum Rashid, CSO's Funding Consultant and CSOs accountant.

My strategy is to operate things as though it is a business development through constant and continuing needs analysis, followed by training programmes all of which will enable them to identify longer term needs for the Somali community and its wider membership. CSO's working groups have been instrumental in the development of two of the ideas and the Resilience 2020 program funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, including building the capacity of CSO to respond, deliver and adapt to the Covid-19 crisis.

Find out more about the organisation here: www.councilofsomaliorgs.com