



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

CASE STUDIES

YOUTH

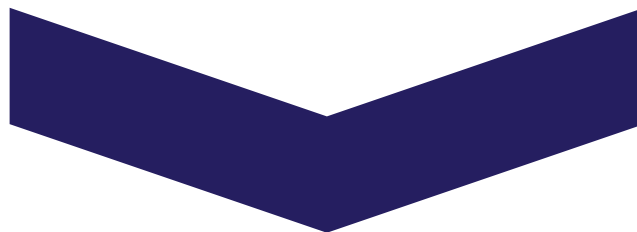
Ebony and Ivory African Caribbean Youth and Families

Project - Manchester (April 2020)

KORI (May 2020)

Manhood Academy Global (May 2020)

Youth Engagement Solutions (YES) (May 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).

EBONY AND IVORY AFRICAN CARIBBEAN YOUTH AND FAMILIES PROJECT - MANCHESTER



EAICO is a project that supports the integration and development of families in Manchester. They deliver 'The Friday Club', a youth club which supports the holistic development of young people. It is attended by 21 young people, who are provided a safe and supportive space to complete their homework, learn about their heritage and develop their leadership skills.

COVID-19 has greatly affected their service because due to social distancing measure young people are not allowed to cannot congregate. This means that they are stuck at home. Many of their young people do not have access to the internet or smart phones. This has made their work difficult, they are increasingly concerned about the mental health of parents and young people as they understand that many are feeling isolated.

Furthermore, the education of their young people is being hugely affected due to lack of resources. Parents are unable to access the benefit of support vouchers provided by the schools of their children as they require printing and many of parents do not have access to a printer. EAICO would like to be able to provide families boardgames, wifi, or phones with data to reduce feeling of isolation and so children and young people can access online learning. Moreover, they in need of a couple of printers with ink, which they can print off the school vouchers given to parents. They hope that their support can ease some of the pressure felt by families during the pandemic.

Project manager: Aba Graham
Ebony and Ivory - Stockport Manchester

KORI



KORI Youth Charity was founded in 2002, achieving nearly two decades of supporting the needs of hundreds of young people from across London. They currently focus their work on young BAME people aged 14-30 years old, using their established partnership network to provide bespoke mentoring, training and exceptional social and diverse work opportunities.

The work is delivered through three set programmes; one, providing both industry and pastoral mentoring in schools and the community; another, enabling personal and professional development programme of international volunteering in Africa and an active on-line platform providing young people with a rich range of work experience, training, and well-being opportunities.

The Coronavirus crisis has hit London especially hard and KORI has worked hard to maintain contact with vulnerable mentees during the enforced isolation period. This has been especially difficult for young people, especially those already struggling with a range of challenges.

KORI was in the second year of transitioning its work and fundraising strategy, successfully gaining new partnership contracts with the University of West England, Bristol and building their work with corporations. All of this work is now on hold due to the crisis and KORl finds itself without an income, writing instead new applications focussed on the support of the young people they work with.

They are working closely with their partner 'The Ubele Initiative' supporting the gathering of essential information on the impact of the virus on BAME young people and organisations London wide and nationally.

They are also applying for funds for a creative on-line project to support communication with young people and building their network; accessing any high needs and supporting young people through their in-house counsellors and sharing the information of other organisations that can offer further support.

kori.org.uk

MANHOOD ACADEMY GLOBAL



Manhood Academy Global (M.A.G) is a community organisation that works both Pan-London and nationally. They deliver mentoring for schools, as well as weekly sessions offering training and support to BAME parents, children and young people of both genders; enabling positive behaviour transformation; support through challenges and rites of passage work delivered in The Gambia.

The Coronavirus Pandemic landed as their work was growing. They are not a funded organisation and had been working on the completion of an application to become a Community interest company (CIC). This would enable them to develop a fundraising strategy that would allow them to strengthen the financial status of the organisation. The payments they receive for workshops only cover immediate expenses, not providing enough for core costs or salaries.

The closure of schools and lockdown on all gathering in the UK has meant that they have had to move their classes online, which they have been glad to do - determined to continue to their support of as many young members and parents as possible through this difficult time. They are also liaising with other professionals in their field, sharing and learning from best practice for online delivery. They have established a platform hosting weekly sessions with thirty-five boys, including young people that are signing in from Bristol and Manchester.

Manhood Academy Global has observed the impact of the crisis on many young people and their families; the more secure family units, with parents that can provide structure, have seemed to thrive from having more time together. However, some young people are struggling with the enforced time at home, increasing their addiction to social media or turning increasingly to drugs like cannabis for an escape. Domestic violence is also sadly escalating and parents have called the team to gain help in calming down their frustrated teenagers, demonstrating the growing need for professional counselling support, which they intend to fundraise for. They have in turn increased their communication with parents who have been happy to access weekly online sessions focussed specifically on their needs. Manhood fears the long term impact that this period may have on parents and young people's mental health.



The organisation's leaders are concerned that the most vulnerable group at this time are the young people they work with that are referred by youth offending teams across London. This work is yet to resume, as youth offending teams and probation workers are also struggling to grasp the new situation. Manhood Academy Global is focusing on building their delivery online, planning and furthering the development of the team's individual skills; preparing for the inevitable growth in skills that they will need to provide for their members in the future.

manhoodacademyofficial.com

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SOLUTIONS (YES)



YES is a Charity based in Brent that works to deter young people away from antisocial behaviour, supporting over 375 young people to be economically productive and to play an active role in their communities.

They promote and support young people through increasing their access to health care and well-being guidance thereby sustaining their physical and mental health. Football is their principal tool of delivery as it provides an engaging platform for raising young people's awareness and enables YES to further support the young people through a range of other activities such as health and nutrition learning, drug abuse awareness, knife crime awareness, mental Health knowledge, anger management and maintenance of internet safety.

The event of the Coronavirus Pandemic has led to the prompt closure of all their face to face work, especially their hugely popular football training sessions that engaged so many young people, both male and female, from across and beyond the borough of Brent. In response the service has had to quickly change its focus to on-line delivery, working to research, collate and share best practice digital resources with their young members. They are determined to keep the young people fully engaged at this challenging time of enforced isolation.



Operations Manager, Alfred Ekpenyong, shared his growing concern about the mental health of the young people he works with closely; who have found themselves in the uncommon situation of being forced to stay at home for three weeks with their families, many of whom have lost the focus of preparing for exams that have now been cancelled. The charity is using the mental health platform 'Kooth', an online provider of health services for children, young people and adults, for signposting those that seem especially vulnerable. It has not been an easy time and Alfred himself has been asked by anxious parents for his support to talk directly to teenagers struggling in this new environment.

yes-ltd.org.uk