

**The Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations
(CEMVO)
The National Health Volunteering Project
South West, North West and North East Regions
Programme**

Introduction

The national health has a great tradition of working with the public to provide health and social care accessible to all. Since the inception of the NHS community members have been playing a vital role in assisting the NHS to meet its objectives. Volunteers from all sectors of the communities worked and directly participated at different levels to provide critical help.

The NHS has been working with the public with the introduction of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPI) to involve the public through the public patient participation in health (PPIF forums)

As part of the public involvement programme CEMVO has been awarded the National Health Section 64 Grant to recruit and encourage BME volunteers to join the national health and social care and to build the capacity of BME organisations to enable effective BME health advocacy and community participation in health and social care.

The project aims and objectives:

- Work closely with organisations that are involved in enabling volunteers to participate in the NHS and social health care set-ups such as CPPIH and PLAS.
- To establish a working relationship and work co-operatively to find ways of promoting PPI forum members' diversity, particularly in terms of BME representation.
- To work with FSOs in providing training and developing community engagement strategies to reach the wider community.
- To work closely with BME voluntary organisations to develop their capacity to work with the CPPIH, FSO and health and social care institutions.
- To increase the numbers of BME volunteers to involve in the health and social care structures such as PPIF, PALS, etc.
- Developing BME volunteer web based database to increase volunteering opportunities within the national health and social care structures
- Setting up regional BME health and social care network to foster BME involvement in the NHS
- Recruiting BME professionals to join HHA Trusts as Non- Executive Directorship.
- Building the capacity of BME organisations especially organisations involved in delivering health advocacy and health care services.
- Identifying potential funding resources to promote BME volunteers through BME health and social care organisations.

- Generally the project is designed to increase involvement of individuals from the BME communities and their participation in the local PPIF, PALS and within the national health and care structures.