

**NCBI LANCASHIRE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 2006 – March 2007**

1. Introduction

NCBI Lancashire was established in April 1999 and this year, our seventh birthday, has seen significant growth with the services for 18 months of a full time programme manager; the employment of a full time administrator and the move into larger office space which has given us a training and meeting room. We have also been successful in attracting significant funding and have just secured our second year of funding from the Commission of Racial Equality.

The following report details our activities over the last financial year.

2. I'm Me and I'm Special

Anti bullying work in primary schools

Initially funded by Stonewall Citizenship 21 and the Children's Fund, this community based project with primary school children aged 5 – 9 was funded by the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership from September 2005 – July 2006. We worked with Dallas Road County Primary School, Morecambe Bay County Primary School and Bowerham Road Primary School. The project aims to raise self esteem and provide children with the strategies to combat name calling, teasing, bullying and conflict. The children work on welcoming diversity in term 1 and on Violence Prevention in term 2. We now want to find funding for this project for a 3 year project to embed the work in the District and monitor what difference it makes in a school if a culture is created which does not tolerate name calling. Some funding has been secured from Francis C Scott, although additional funding will needed from other grant sources or from schools wishing to participate.

3. Work in the Community of Lancaster District

Community workshops

Funding from the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership, the Commission for Racial Equality and Adult Education meant that the work promoting community cohesion and building the resilience of the District to deal with conflict and inter group tension increased significantly. Free community workshops enabled 96 people to be trained in conflict resolution and skills to welcome diversity. Thirty four people attended the 3 day training Leadership for Diversity. One day workshops were offered free or at a reduced rate to other agencies, including Bowerham Road School, Marsh Community Centre and CVS and as a result we trained a further 50 people.

Holocaust Memorial Day



Holocaust Memorial Day grows in success every year, with over 200 people attending the commemoration and cultural share at the Town Hall on January 25th 2007. The cultural sharing was co-ordinated by More Music and included performances by local choirs, Beaumont College, Willow Lane Primary School and testimonials by people affected in some way by the Holocaust including a survivor; a young person who had visited Auschwitz, a Gypsy and a celebration of the memorial in Amsterdam to the gays and lesbians murdered in the Holocaust. Once again the Dukes cinema supported our work with a film and we were able to take panels of speakers into schools (Our Ladies year 7,10 and 6th form; Morecambe and Heysham High Schools 6th Form) and the local HMYOI. Young people heard perspectives on the Holocaust from both Jews and Allies – all of whom lived locally.

Diversity Dialogues

The Commission for Racial Equality funded a project called Diversity Dialogues. In partnership with Usman Munshi from the Sultan Food Court and Art Gallery we provided a public space where contentious issues could be debated. The first of this year's Dialogues was part of a transnational project organised by St Martin's Beyond Face Value called Roots of Prejudice and Discrimination, attracting over 60 people. The second was on Terrorism with perspectives from the local Muslim community; the police; the university and from a man of Northern Irish heritage, attracting 60 people and the third was Women and Faith with perspectives from Judaism, Islam and Christianity attracting a mainly female group of 30. The Diversity Dialogues were supported by a monthly diversity drop in at the Sultan where people could meet to debate and discuss issues further. The Dialogues were then taken into the sixth form in 3 high schools; young people were prepared with a session on identity and diversity and then a panel called the Dignity of Difference featuring perspectives from Muslims (elders and women) African heritage; Irish; disabled; gay and lesbian and a white man sharing what they

liked about who they were; the impact of prejudice and discrimination and what they would ask of their allies (ie the young people).

Equality and Diversity Building Block

The Director continues to chair the Equality and Diversity Building Block for the Local Strategic Partnership (formed in June 2005) and is now facilitating a meeting of key community leaders which feeds into the EDBB. She is a member of the LSP executive.

Indifference

Funded by the Local Network Fund, 50 young people from across the District came together to present 'Indifference', a performance opportunity exploring youth culture and positive expression of identity through music and fashion.

Young people from across the district investigated current fashions, fashions of the past and the resulting misinformation that can be generated about who we are based on how we look. Through this work, young people had the opportunity to better understand what it feels like when adults and other groups of young people make assumptions about them based on what they are wearing.



Welcome Stories Project



Funded by the European Social Fund through Lancashire Grants for Growth, the Welcome Stories Project trained 10 people to gather people's stories of welcome to the District. The training was for 21 hours with homework and a training pack. The course covered listening skills; awareness of diversity; information and story gathering; confidentiality; awareness of the effects of prejudice and discrimination; how to make different people feel welcome; self-reflection to improve skills of welcome and communication and working alone and as a member of a group

The trainees did written homework, and welcomed invited story-tellers. They all went through NCBI's standard induction process, and were offered the opportunity for CRB clearance. In all a total of 31 stories were gathered and

exhibited at different locations around the District. This project builds on the work generated by the Welcome Poster and will form the basis of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

4. Work Lancashire wide

NCBI Lancashire won a tender to deliver a community mediation project in Pendle funded by Pendle Neighbourhood Management. We trained 12 people in conflict resolution; dealing with controversial issues and coalition building skills.

5. Contracts

One day workshops were contracted by the following organisations: UCLAN; Keighley College; Kirklees Metropolitan Council; Wyre Hate Crime Partnership; Sheffield Probation Service.

7. Finance

Funding comes from four sources, contracts, grants, donations and participant fees from workshops. This year grants have been received from Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership (24000) Commission for Racial Equality (24000) Local Network Fund (7000) Grants for Growth (6000)

Liz Neat
Director
April 2007