

Bulletin: 24

September 2011

www.onenorthwest.org.uk

Sign up to our RSS Feeds and get the latest news straight away at:

www.onenorthwest.org.uk/news.xml or <http://twitter.com/#!/onenorthwest>

For information on any of the issues in this bulletin or if you would like to contribute towards future editions, please contact Dan Silver, One North West:

Email: daniel.silver@vsnw.org.uk or
Telephone: 0161 276 9305

Voice of the North: Reflections on the Northern Youth Experience & Response to the Riots.

The Voice of the North Project brings together BME organisations working with and for young people in the North. The project has been underway since November 2010, in which over forty young people have been involved in sessions with their youth workers and in community centres to discuss a wide range of issues that they felt were important to them. This has provided us with some key insights into the key concerns for young people in the North.

At a time when young people are being ascribed negative and damaging labels following the youth disturbances that are spreading across the country, it is imperative that we take stock of what young people are telling us and respond to meet their needs. The Voice of the North young people said that:

- They experience discrimination as a result of their ethnicity and age
- There is a lack of choice available for young people
- Aspirations are being constrained leading to hopelessness
- The voice of young BME people in the North is not being listened to by Government

The full report is here: www.onenorthwest.org.uk/documents/Voice%20of%20the%20North%20Final%20Reportv2.pdf

Following this, work by One North West has included:

- Lobbying work based on the Voice of the North Report: This has been discussed by key Ministers and civil servants. We will build on this, bringing together young people with key decision makers as well as discussing solutions at the NW BME Policy Forum and then 'youth proofing' solutions around:
 - Youth Employment
 - Tackling Discrimination
 - Participation
- Dan Silver wrote for the Voice4Change Members blog, 'Response to the Riots: Abandoning our collective Future?' <http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk/content/response-riots-abandoning-our-collective-future>
- Working with Union Street Media Arts to produce a short documentary and a youth briefing from the report.
- Attending the All Party Parliamentary Group on Civil Society: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/appg>

One North West: Open Public Services Discussion Paper

The Open Public Services White Paper (OPSWP) crystallises the policy development around Big Society and Localism, which the NW BME Policy Forum has been discussing since summer 2010. The OPSWP is a framework for the reform of the public sector that brings together some policy changes already underway and proposes further consultations and legislation changes.

This signals a shift away from the post-war welfare state and shows that after all the debate and confusion, the Big Society is primarily about Small Government. This is a total rejection of the old centralised approach to public service delivery and promises to open up nearly all public services to tender. The OPSWP has far-reaching implications that require consideration.

The White Paper sets out five key principles for modernising public services:

- **Choice** – wherever possible we will increase choice
- **Decentralisation** – Power should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level
- **Diversity** – Public services should be open to a range of providers
- **Fairness** – We will ensure fair access to public services
- **Accountability** – Public services should be accountable to users and taxpayers

These require equality analysis and we must ask the question of how will these fundamental issues impact on BME communities: will it lead to improvements in public services for all, will it improve the quality of our democracy and will the voluntary and community sector (VCS) be included?

For the briefing click here: <http://bit.ly/ngBiT1>

To take part in our survey to respond to the White Paper : <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HZXJXM>

Joint Submission by UK NGOs to UN Committee of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Runnymede and other UK race equality organisations went to Geneva for the UK Government's examination by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 23 and 24 August. The Committee assessed the government's policies on tackling racism and inequalities in the UK's BME communities, and race organisations were there to make sure the most important issues were brought to the table.

Runnymede and other race equality organisations produced a report in June 2011 which was submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) ahead of its examination of the UK Government. The report highlights the key challenges faced by ethnic minorities in the UK and where the Government could be doing more to tackle inequalities in BME communities.

For the Joint submission by UK NGOs against Racism to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) report, please see :

<http://www.onenorthwest.org.uk/documents/UK%20NGOs%20Against%20Racism%20CERD%20Report.pdf>

For more information: <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/projects/europe/cerd.html>

Open for All? VSNW Conference: Tues 4th October

King's Conference Centre, Manchester. <http://www.vsnw.org.uk/events/view/305>



Open for All?

National policy, regional issues and the role of the VCS in an age of Localism

The VCS cannot afford to under-estimate the scale of the change that is coming as the government aims to open up public services, transfer more and more power to communities and individuals, and radically re-structure how the sector is funded and supported. Finding a way to navigate this changing environment will be crucial for the survival of organisations and the vital services they deliver.

VSNW's annual conference will explore the opportunities and challenges for the VCS in the North West, amidst current government policies on Big Society, health, the economy, employment, volunteering, and VCS infrastructure.

With a strong focus on national policy and its implementation in the North West, attendees will learn more about the emerging agenda, how it will impact their organisation and those they support, and how they need to respond. Attendance is free for VCS organisations and lunch will be provided. Places are genuinely going very fast.

Keynote speaker: Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, the Shadow Civil Society Minister.

[Book your place online here](#)

[Download a booking form here](#) - please return to Helen Walker, Administrator, VSNW, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ or email to admin@vsnw.org.uk

Action for ESOL Campaign is a success

The Skills Funding Agency has confirmed that full funding is available for ESOL and other adult courses formerly subject to the restrictive eligibility criteria that would have excluded up to 75% of adults on so called 'inactive' benefits. This represented a huge attack on adult education, and would have affected students from some of the poorest inner city communities. *Action for ESOL* was particularly concerned with the impact on non-native speakers of English who need English to support their children, find work, access education and play a full role in their communities.

250,000 adult places that were risk this year can be now be saved! This is an important victory for the *Action for ESOL* campaign. *Action for ESOL* brought together teachers, students and others, from up and down the country, in an effective and visible campaign which included letter writing, lobbying, a national petition, rallies, demonstrations, teach-ins and the London ESOL festival. The campaign was effectively supported by a number of MPs.

The U-turn is a tremendous success for the campaign and those who have supported it. It shows how working together as teachers and students, in alliance with other educational, trade union and social organisations, can make a difference.

Its success should be a welcome boost to everyone concerned with educational opportunity – including those seeking to defend community learning, Access, and adult education, as well the campaign to restore the EMA.

For more information, please see: <http://actionforesol.org/>

North West Social Value Foundation Launched

The new North West Social Value Innovation Investment Foundation has been launched, with £40,000 to invest in partnerships of NHS and VCS organisations delivering inspiring projects or programmes. In particular, the fund is looking for projects or ideas that go the extra mile to make a difference to communities.

They should be partnerships of NHS organisation working with VCS or Social Enterprise organisations to deliver an innovative service or programme that tackle at least one health priority.

The Social Value Foundation currently has £40,000 to invest, and there is no minimum or maximum limit for each proposal.

The aim of the Foundation is to ensure that NHS organisations in the North West actively innovate, inspire and invest to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of local communities in everything they do.

Initial expressions of interest should be forwarded to **Julie Cheetham** by 30 September 2011. Those proposals nominated to progress to an investment panel stage will be notified by the 10 October 2011, in readiness to pitch either on the 20 October or 3 November 2011.

Please see here for more information: <http://www.vsnw.org.uk/news/view/2011-08-10-north-west-social-value-foundation-launched>

British Institute for Human Rights Event: 8th September

BIHR is running a *free-to-attend* National Human Rights Tour, visiting 16 UK cities from September to December 2011. We will celebrate the Human Rights Act, look at how human rights relate to the Coalition's plans, and address human rights issues both nationally and specific to each region that we visit.

BIHR are visiting Manchester on 8th September. **For further details, and to book onto an event, please visit:**

<http://www.bihr.org.uk/events/bihr-national-human-rights-tour-information-page#format>

Working with Roma communities in the North West

The report highlights areas of good practice across the North West and provides insight into the number of Roma people living in the region, along with the issues this gives rise to, and the work undertaken by statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure positive community relations.

The report is published by the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership, The North West Strategic Migration Partnership provides a framework within which issues pertaining to inward international migration and migrants can be discussed, and information exchanged. An important part of its function is to represent the views of North West England to government.

Click here to read the full report: <http://www.onenorthwest.org.uk/documents/final%20roma%20report%20.pdf>