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Adelina Chalmers
Equalities Development Officer

Graciano Masauso
Strategic Development Officer
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John Day
Strategic Development Officer
for Cambridgeshire, Thurrock, Essex,
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Pauline Stepney
Strategic Development Officer
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MENTER

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MENTER

**The Black and Minority
Ethnic Network for the
East of England Region**

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Who are we?

MENTER is a regional network of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) voluntary organisations and community groups, managed by representatives of its membership.

Our Vision

MENTER vision is for a future where inequalities are addressed, there is no racism and all BME communities are properly valued for their contribution to the region and their participation in local democracy

Our Aims

1. To develop the BME sector
2. To promote equalities, particularly race equality and advocacy for the BME sector
3. To build a strong and representative regional BME network

Becoming a Member

Membership of MENTER is FREE of charge.

There are several ways of going about becoming a member, either go to our Website (www.mentor.org.uk) or request a membership form by calling us on (01223) 355034 or e-mail us on: office@mentor.org.uk

The core benefits of becoming a member are:

- Access to a FREE Bi-annual Newsletter
- Shared information on good practice examples
- Opportunities to attend MENTER events and ability to get in touch with other organisations across the East of England region

“With **UNITY** there is **STRENGTH**

- Aesop

Skills, Enterprise and Employment

Leading Staff Member: Terry Harding

Research has shown that BME people in the East of England are disadvantaged when trying to access skills, employment and enterprise services. The main purpose of this work is to influence key policy makers in the region e.g. regional agencies and local authorities for improved access and quality of service for BME people. MENTER leads a Regional Task Force set up to progress this work, as well as trying to support local skills, employment and enterprise initiatives where possible. We are always keen to hear from BME people about their experiences both good and bad.

Strategic Development

Leading Staff Members: John Day, Pauline Stepney, Graciano Masauso and Michal Siewniak

MENTER has a team of Strategic Development Officers (SDOs), whose role is to develop BME infrastructure across the region, ensuring that the BME communities are well connected with those who provide services to the community.

SDOs are able to support BME groups in the following :

- Community development
- Support and advice for BME organisations
- Development of BME fora and participation/representation in local partnerships
- Advocacy and advice to improve service provision for BME communities
- Signposting and advice to public sector/third sector on race equality

Equalities and Race Equalities

Leading Staff Members: Anna Burgess and Adelina Chalmers

We facilitate equalities work in the region with other partners representing different strands and from the public sector.

Partnership Work

The Chief Officer and the team at Cambridge are responsible for organisational and partnership development at MENTER. If you are interested in working in partnership with MENTER on projects, please contact Ila Chandavarkar or Liesbeth ten Ham at the Cambridge office.

Partnership Development Project

Leading Staff Member: Pa Musa Jobarteh

Our main aim is to assist with the integration of refugees and migrant workers in the East of England as a means to improving local community cohesion through partnerships working with the voluntary, statutory and community sector organisations.

Frontline Engagement Regional Infrastructure (FERI)

Leading Staff Member: Béatrice Humarau

FERI is funded by the Big Lottery Fund BASIS programme for three years (2009-2012). The project covers the whole of the East of England and is composed of two parts:

- (i) ICT help through a central help desk and a pilot project that reaches out to faith and rural groups;
- (ii) Provision of regional infrastructure support through policy briefings, web based help and coordination of region wide activities. The FERI partnership comprises: MENTER (lead agency); COVER through its i-Trust directorate; Rural Action East and the East of England Faiths Council. The Project reports to the regional consortium, ERIN (the Eastern Region Infrastructure Network).

The consortium has over 20 regional third sector networks as members covering varied aspects of the third sector from age to rurality, to health/social care, to social enterprise and to equalities and diversity.