Sandwell African and Caribbean Network

Historically African and Caribbean people have not had a huge say in the decisions making processes that affect them on a political level. In terms of the wider society our community experience poorer experience and outcomes that impact on all areas of their life. One of the reasons for this is that the people with decision making powers do not understand the needs of voluntary and community organisations that serve the needs of African and Caribbean people. It is for these reasons and more that the idea for a network came into being to highlight the lack of engagement and exclusion of African Caribbean people in the political process and to redress the balance of discrimination and to work towards the creation of a level playing field.

The Sandwell African and Caribbean Network (SACN) is at the fledgling stage and is currently made up of 3 organisations. These are Sandwell African Caribbean Mental Health Foundation, West Bromwich African and Caribbean Resource Centre and OSCAR Sandwell. SACN has commenced with the intention to address a number of priorities which members of the group will work on. SACN's vision, aims and objectives will inform the work undertaken. It is with this in mind that the first objective for SACN is to establish itself as a network to support others that work in the voluntary and community sector to ensure that the people who work in these organisations are sufficiently empowered to represent the people they serve.

The network understands that to be successful with the aims and objectives, some preparatory work will be undertaken by each member of the group. Part of this work will be around community engagement and building up the infrastructure of the network. This will be the main focus for the forthcoming year until the network becomes embedded within the community and used as a resource.

If you would like more information about the network or would like to join please email SACMHF and we can engage in some further dialogue.

Rosie Nembhardt