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Rhwydwaith Addysgwyr
a Mentoriaid Oedolion Du
Network of Educators and
Mentors of Black Adults

National Race Equality Conference

Working with Black and Minority Ethnic Learners:
Issues, Challenges and Achievements

Angel Hotel Cardiff
Thursday 9th March 2006



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



National Race Equality Conference

Working with Black and Minority Ethnic Learners:
Issues, Challenges and Achievements

Background and Aims

The main purpose of the conference will be to explore the levels of achievement, areas of engagement, the experience of black and minority ethnic learners in adult education and the achievements of providers. The rationale for this relates to the following issues and findings relating to black and minority ethnic participation (and non-participation) in adult education:

- Certain minority group adults do not participate in adult education to a representative extent, particularly African Caribbean men and Bangladeshi and Pakistani Women
- Some minority group learners don't do as well as they might when they do participate
- Students from certain minority groups are absent from, or under-represented in, a range of curriculum areas including construction and work-based learning. This is also true for some groups of learners in the arts and higher-level subjects.
- In some instances black and minority ethnic students are confined to a very narrow band of subject areas.
- Many students do not progress when they do engage – this is particularly true for ESOL students who tend not to progress from ESOL into mainstream subject areas.

Conference Approach

The Conference will be carousel style to encourage discussion and debate throughout the conference. There will be a number of formal presentations to stimulate discussion followed by a range of workshops with a feedback and plenary session to wrap up the conference.



Audience

Audience for the conference will be cross sectoral and will include a good representation of black and minority ethnic colleagues from voluntary and community organisations in the Welsh regions as well as representatives from the newly established forums for colleagues working with black and minority ethnic learners in Wales. The conference will also be suitable for a number of strategic and governmental bodies, particularly WAG, ELWa, Local Government and Dysg and for colleagues from Higher and Further Education institutions.

Special guest interviewer Jason Mohammed, BBC Wales

Speakers and workshop leaders

The role of the speakers will be to introduce a specific area of adult education exploring how this impacts on black learners. Presentations will be evidence based, their main purpose will be to illustrate models of good practice and to share with colleagues strategies for over-coming barriers to participation and success etc for black adult learners.

Speakers and workshop leaders to include colleges from: Workers' Education Association, the Black Voluntary Council Service, the Race Equality Council, ELWa, Estyn, the Wales Assembly Government, the Commission for Racial Equality, Higher Education and Further Education and Dysg, Local Authorities and those providing services to learners from Gypsy and Traveller communities.

The workshops will have implications for all sectors; though the focus may be on a particular sector with the workshop leader exploring the transferability of models/ approaches from one sector to another.

The main function of the workshops will be to explore issues facing black adult learners; share best practice and discuss issues.



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Programme: Working with Black and Minority Ethnic Learners Issues, Challenges and Achievements

- 09.15 **Arrival and Registration.** Tea/Coffee available
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- 10.00 **Welcome and Introduction to the Day.** Rob Humphreys, Director, NIACE Dysgu Cymru; Lenford White, Development Officer, NIACE (Chair)
-
- 10.20 **Keynote Address.** Maxine Room, Principal, Swansea College
Attracting and Engaging Black Adults in Further Education
-
- 10.50 **Christine Chapman.** Deputy Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, Welsh Assembly Government.
WAG is committed to supporting adult education providers to ensure equality of opportunity for black and minority ethnic learners
-
- 11.05 **Question and Answer session**
-
- 11.25 **Coffee Break**
-
- 11.40 **Sheila Drury.** Executive Chairman, ELWa
Working strategically in order to ensure success
-
- 12.00 **Clive Sefia,** Director, Black Voluntary Sector Network
How do we ensure that the sector maintains its vitality?
-
- 12.20 **Lunch**
-
- 13.20 **Panel Discussion.** *Establishing the priorities for race equality work in Wales. What are the issues, challenges and achievements?*
-
- 14.00 **Chris Myant,** Director, CRE Wales
Priorities, Adult Education and black and minority ethnic learners
-
- 14.20 **Workshops.** Please indicate your choices on the application form
- Intercultural Competencies.** *What should teachers and educationalists know about their learners?*
- Models of good Practice – progression.** *Getting non-traditional learners to participate and take advantage of mainstream provision*
- First Steps into learning.** *Innovative approaches when working with black and minority ethnic learners*
- Ensuring progression and meeting the needs of ESOL learners**
- The power of partnerships, engagement and capacity building.**
Strategies used by providers in engaging black and minority ethnic learners
- Reaching places others cannot reach.** *The role of the black VCS*
-
- 15.35 **Plenary Session.** *The way forward for race equality work in Wales*
-
- 15.50 **Close of Conference.** Tea/Coffee available

Application form

- I consent to this information being put on the NIACE Dysgu Cymru database and used for information and professional development purposes.

Personal Details

Name

Ethnic Group

Gender

Designation

Organisation

Address

e mail

Telephone

Fax

Special requirements

- I will be using a wheelchair
- I will require a hearing loop
- I have the following dietary requirements

Language

Please tick (✓) your preferred language of communication

- English Welsh

Bursary places

- I would like to apply for a bursary place. See attached supporting letter explaining my circumstances and the relevance of the conference to my area of work .

Workshops

Please indicate your first and second choice of workshop

- Intercultural Competencies
- Models of Good Practice – progression
- First Steps into Learning
- Ensuring progression and meeting needs of ESOL learners
- The power of partnerships, engagement and capacity building
- Reaching places others cannot reach

Fees

I understand that the fee will be £60 for members and £70 for non-members

- I am a member of NIACE Dysgu Cymru

Payment

- I enclose Purchase Order No

Invoice address if different from above

Cancellations will only be accepted if received in writing before the closing date and will be subject to an administration fee of £20. Substitutions may be made at any time.

Please complete and return by:
post: NIACE DYSGU CYMRU, 3rd Floor,
35 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9HB,
e mail: wendy@niacedc.org.uk
or fax: 029 20 370909 Tel: 029 2037 0900;
by Friday, 24 February 2006



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