

## Services

We offer a range of culturally diverse services to black and minority ethnic (BME) individuals, families and groups. BMECS operates as a safe place where people can access support, our services are as follows:

- **ONE TO ONE** - drop in sessions offering emotional support & referral to other services while assuring confidentiality with a focus on detail in supporting West Sussex County Council to deliver on Self directed support programmes by increasing stake up and supporting clients to apply for and manage their budgets.
- **ADVOCACY & INFORMATION** - Job related, immigration issues, domestic violence, racial & hate issues
- Prevent Agenda, (please note we do not offer immigration advice but are able to refer clients.
- **OUTREACH WORK** - We proactively reach out to people that would not normally access services, general health & wellbeing. Increasing take up on BME Social Enterprise.
- **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY, COMMUNITY COHESION MULTI-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**  
Support for culturally diverse groups, running training workshops to share issues & celebrate diversity in a safe & non judgmental setting ensuring a cohesive community (NI1).
- **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK & SAFEGUARDING** - Youth clubs, education support, mentoring, befriending services for ethnic minority children & young people.

## Contact Details

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**BMECS**

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# Out of Asia Project



**The Human Story  
behind Migration  
to the  
Worthing Area**

## Purpose of the Project

The purpose is to produce an electronic and paper resource useful for teachers of Citizenship, school children and other researchers accessing the material which will be given to public libraries and West Sussex Record Office.

## Aims of the Project

The project aims to describe the cultural experiences of people from the Indian sub-continent who have migrated to the Worthing area giving an opportunity for a number of agencies to learn about the heritage of Worthing.

- The project will focus on audio and video interviews with people from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka who have migrated to the Worthing area over the past 70 years.
- We shall include both men and women who were born and lived at least 10 years of their life in those countries. Key cultural subjects will be home life, bringing up children, education, working life, politics, religion, festivals and leisure activities.
- We shall produce a DVD for local schools, public libraries and other community organisations.
- We shall learn from the local historians about the heritage of Worthing and ways of conducting a heritage project and how to carry out research.

## What the Project Intends To Do

- Interview at least 30 people from the Indian sub-continent
- Translate, transcribe and film at least 15 interviews, producing paper and digital copies
- Run training courses on the cultural differences between the peoples of the Indian subcontinent and oral history techniques for volunteers, editorial panel and Project Officer
- Make the DVD production exercise a learning opportunity for a team of media students, graduates of the University of Chichester, volunteers, staff and the editorial board,
- Distribute the DVD to school, public library in West Sussex, and some community organisations
- Help implement a learning programme at local schools using the DVD and some of the interviewees
- Hold a launch event during black history month and other local community viewings.

## How the Project Came About

The interest for the project came from the following sources:

- The questions we were being asked by the schools about the different communities that live in the area and how they came to be here.
- The Library services due to lack of information about the cultures that are represented in the area.
- We looked into what the schools learn and looked at what the key stages requirements are and identified that they learn about the Indian sub-continent and migration to the UK between years 5 and 7 mainly but not exclusively,

All this and also with the diversity of Worthing keeps changing it was felt that there was need to start looking at the heritage of the area and how people who come to settle here feel about their areas as part of community cohesion and what lessons we can learn from the project.

## Editorial Board Members

- **BMECS CEO – Project Manager**
- **Project Officer**
- **Project Assistant**
- **Worthing Borough Council – Community Cohesion Officer**
- **West Sussex County Council - Library Services and Records Office**
- **University of Chichester students and lecturers from the Media & History Departments**
- **Volunteers from the communities**

## About BME Community Services

### BMECS's Main Purpose

BME Community Services was established in 2006 to address the gap in services for BAME Communities on the West Sussex Coastal Strip. With the increase of BME communities in the area. These communities consist of diverse ethnic origins, with different religions, languages and cultural values.

### BMECS' Aims and Objectives

- To advance education, relieve poverty and hardship, social exclusion and prevent crime while providing practical culturally appropriate emotional support and advice.
- To relieve sickness and preserve health amongst the BAME communities.
- To identify unmet needs, advocate for and collectively prioritise issues and concerns, and work towards securing resources to enable BAME communities to participate fully in the community
- To promote equality of opportunity and celebrate the value of the diverse communities in our area