

Calderdale BME Network was formally launched in May 2007 to support BME community and voluntary sector organisations and aims to act as their umbrella body in Calderdale.

Primarily, the BME Network provides a means for BME voluntary and community groups to unite, develop a single voice, and influence decision-makers locally and regionally. It also aims to help BME community groups build capacity through sharing information about consultations and developments with other voluntary and statutory partners.

The Network aims to help BME community groups to further develop and grow by: providing groups with information on funding opportunities; supporting with funding applications and providing training to groups/individuals.

At the most recent meeting, 9 groups attended and the main topic of discussion revolved around how to engage more groups in the Network - particularly those in Elland and Todmorden. We also looked at having meetings every 8 weeks and at different locations throughout Calderdale.

Future agendas will focus on BME representation on various boards, committees, forums and networks across Calderdale, with the aim of identifying where BME representation is lacking, so we can address these areas. We'll also be looking at the need to elect/appoint BME community representatives.