

BSWN

Black South West Network (BSWN) Impact Report

April 2018 - September 2019





Measuring Impact

We are committed to measuring the impact we have on the communities we serve, and it is important that our team monitor and analyse the difference we make through our campaigning, research, and practice. Feedback from the community is essential to understanding our impact and we therefore use a variety of techniques and tools to enable stakeholders to advise, recommend, and give feedback on the events, campaigns, advocacy programmes, and research that we carry out.

Research

BSWN is driven by data and our team believes that the communities that we support should be consulted in order to participate in the decision making in their city. In order to facilitate these voices, BSWN utilises community research and local researchers who are part of the Black and Asian communities in the region, to reach those who may not be often reached in order to be consulted on matters that impact on their everyday life. Community participation in our consultations ensures that our work to make the Black and Asian Business, Enterprise and VCSE sectors in the region is more informed, more connected and more resilient.

The research we conducted in the past 18 months includes:

‘We want to change, and they have the power’: Bristol BAME Sector Review (2018)

“ Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic voluntary sector organisations have taken a battering in this city... We are wounded. We're wounded as a sector. There is a desperate need for investment and ideas. ”

This is how Nilaari described the state of Bristol's BAME-led sector, a result of the impact of austerity and the sector's disconnect from power.

Through this sector review, we've been able to identify the need for strategic investment and infrastructure support to effect positive change within the sector.





A corridor of closed doors: BAME Business Sector Review (2018)

“ Bristol is a very closed and exclusive city. It's like a big club that's hard to get into. The reality is yes, Bristol is growing but the BAME community does not benefit from this ”

A description of the exclusionary nature of Bristol business sector by the local Somali business owners reflects the findings of this report which identifies some of the barriers to BAME business' growth. Improved access to finance, support to combat the exclusionary and discriminatory financial ecosystem hindering growth and access to funding, and open networks to access new opportunities were suggested as some of the solutions to the serious barriers identified in this research.



Engaging the BAME Social Enterprise Sector in Social Investment (2018)

“ We need a space that we can all access to enable better collaboration, but we need multiple spaces to ensure different perspectives are met ”

This insightful review of the BAME Social Enterprise Sector across the South West of England seeks to explore and understand the barriers and challenges faced by BAME social entrepreneurs in accessing social investment. The need for networking spaces and access to information have been identified as the key barriers to growth.

Policy Development

The extensive community research conducted by our team aims to enhance the body of data and information with which to inform decision-makers on policy and delivery issues to ensure that race equality and equity is enshrined in their work. Our policy development work further includes:

- Communicating the outcomes of consultations and events to decision-makers in the public sector arenas such that BAME voices are effectively heard.
- Facilitating community conferences, events, and networking meetings focusing on specific issues affecting BAME communities.
- Working with key decision makers, policy makers, social investors and the BAME community in ways that bring them together in co-productive environments.
- Hosting of co-productive workshops with the BAME communities and decision-makers to discuss, develop and design

19/04/2018

#Islamophobia20 – Bristol launch event

This Bristol launch of the Runnymede Trust's new 20th Anniversary report exploring the **impact of Islamophobia on British Muslims**, titled 'Islamophobia: Still a challenge for us all' provided our stakeholders with the opportunity to hear and discuss the recommendations for policy implementations to tackle Islamophobic hate crime in the UK.

04/05/2018

Civil Society Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, **Professor E. Tendayi Achiume**, has undertaken an official country visit to the UK between in May 2018. Professor Achiume, with BSWN's support, invited interested stakeholders, including civil society organisations and community members/representatives, to a joint consultation aimed at gathering **information and evidence** on the various issues falling within her mandate.

“

Representation is still a great concern, thus lobbying for greater voices and influencing local policy is crucial. BSWN has a role to play in this.

”

07/12/2018

The Mayor's 'Hot Coffee, Hot Topic': Economic Inclusion with BSWN

Organised by the Mayor's team and BSWN at Bristol City Hall, this early morning 'Hot Coffee, Hot Topic' session hosted for colleagues, academics and business leaders interested in the topic of Economic Inclusion and BSWN's contribution to Inclusive Growth in the city. The session had an informal format and was opened by the Mayor Marvin Rees, before our Director, Sado Jirde, presented our response to the rise in Economic Growth and lack of Economic Inclusion in the city via presenting our research findings and plans for the BAME-led Enterprise Hub to be realised in the city.

27/03/19

Avon Mutual Roundtable meeting

This roundtable meeting served to facilitate a conversation between local BAME business leaders and community representatives and Avon Mutual. The purpose was to assess an opportunity for locating a new Avon Mutual branch in East Bristol, which would improve access to **community banking** in areas of high BAME business density.





Connecting the Sector & Communities

At the heart of our vision for an equitable society is the mission to strengthen the voice of BAME communities in decision-making, and facilitating change by providing spaces to develop community partnerships and collaboration. Building connected, resilient and engaged communities, organisations and entrepreneurs ensures economic growth for all communities. BSWN's programme of events and network meetings aims to unlock this growth for the City.

Black and Asian Business Network

The purpose of this network is to aid the development of effective networking, collaboration and innovation amongst BAME entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs in response to its research. Over the past 18 months, quarterly network meetings have attracted over 250 entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs in the city.



“

Having the opportunities and spaces in which to come together to discuss business issues, develop collaborations, hear of new opportunities, and exchange ideas are the life-blood of a thriving business community. Developing networking opportunities for BME business leaders in Bristol is an essential step forward in our drive to create a vibrant and inclusive economy, and a city in which nobody is left behind.

”

Mayor Marvin Rees



“

Coming here tonight with BSWN, I find it quite inspirational to relate to as firstly a black young woman in Bristol. For people of my ethnicity to think about it in a broader scale, it was quite uplifting, quite refreshing. I came upon some faces that I was familiar with, faces I was unfamiliar with, and what the whole thing is about - it's about business, teachings from each other, and empowering you about whatever platform you want to embark upon. It was so inspiring to see that someone was not afraid to talk about their struggles, their challenges, and how they've turned around every opportunity there is to build own their own dreams and goals despite all their ups and downs, like tonight's speaker. And not be afraid to talk about finance in the sense of debts. The whole atmosphere is just thrilling.

”

Black Voluntary & Community Sector Network

Three prominent themes arose from the Sector Review and discussion with sector representatives: the need for building trust and collaboration within the sector, the need to improve the BAME sector’s position with the power-brokers in the City, and finding out how they can contribute to building an inclusive framework. BSWN subsequently facilitated a programme of bi-monthly meetings attracting over 150 local sector representatives.

Guest speakers included local funders such as Quarter Community Foundation or National Lottery Community Fund, as well as provided a space to connect, share information about upcoming events and programme hosted by the sector in the city.



“ This network has provided me with a well-informed, chaired meeting that directly supports, reflects and answers queries that impact on our communities and the organisations that support it! ”

“ If this network was to stop, I would feel isolated and find it almost impossible to promote my organisation and its aims. ”



of the VCSE Network attendees found the access to information and contact with funders invaluable



of Business network meeting attendees felt it had an impact on their knowledge, work and skills.



of all network attendees felt the meetings and events provided them with a chance to connect and collaborate with their peers and colleagues



Inclusion Training

As part of our portfolio of services, BSWN's Inclusion Training explores racial inequality in the UK using a wide range of interactive techniques including; small group discussion, forum theatre-style exercises and videos. Participants learn about the historical context of racial inequality in UK and explore why it can be difficult to talk about race and racism, the difference between individual prejudice/structural oppression and how to take action as an individual and as a group. All participants leave with personalised action plans to tackle racial inequality within their professional roles and personal lives, plus each team will leave with a plan on how to tackle racial inequality at work.

Over **200 attendees** have benefited from this training over 18 months, drawn from public, private and VCSE sectors.

65% of training attendees rated the sessions, both content and trainer input, as excellent.

Participants' interest on topics of inclusion and equality **increased by 8%** after only one session

Participants' **awareness of the historical context** of discrimination **rose by 15%**.

Participants' awareness of current issues surrounding inclusion and equality **increased by 15%**

Participants' confidence to take action rose **by 20%** - a proactive feature highlighted multiple times during sessions and in the qualitative feedback

"Really good training, facilitators were great and really understanding of complex race relations and racism and able to inform us through their engagement. This made me feel comfortable and able to feel like I can really express my experiences and feelings, opinions. Thank you!"

"The training was very productive and enhanced my understanding about race, as well as a collective platform to learn, share experience with colleagues. I most enjoyed the activities and the role-play, it was very useful. The trainers were well knowledgeable about the topic and confidence to give space for differences. Thank you."



Impact in Numbers

1,175

Community members reached through newsletters



23,500

Twitter impressions per month

73

New members



5

Volunteers and interns trained and equipped

Network members & attendees

515



Profile visits per month

661



Strategic meetings attended

272

8,725

Website visitors



11

Events organised & facilitated



Next Steps & Priorities For Next Year

1. Implement the second phase of the Enterprise/Impact Hub business plan focused on acquiring a building and piloting a BAME accelerator programme
2. In partnership with University of Bristol, launch the first Race Research and Policy Network in the region to drive evidence-based approach to influencing public policy
3. Embed race equality within the city/region key decision-making institutions and structures across all policy areas to improve outcomes for BAME communities as the leading race equality organisation in the region
4. Strengthen and deliver our targeted capacity building programme to build on the success of current initiatives to accelerate impact and growth, across BAME enterprises, community businesses, social enterprises and community organisations in the region
5. Finalise the delivery of our cultural inclusion programme aimed at delivering an online digital archiving platform, strengthening the capacity of BAME heritage and arts organisations and working with cultural organisation to decolonize
6. Unlock further resources for BSWN and the sector, and continue to develop a sustainable business model
7. Continue to deliver high level networking events, roundtable discussions, conferences and community events to inform, enhance access to knowledge and build skills within the BAME community



