

WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT W.A.D

Registered charity 1132899



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BRIEF HISTORY

W.A.D. came to be as many people found it increasingly difficult to get particular support for people in the BLACK ETHNIC MINORITY group. NGO's and multiple charities have canvassed this group but with no real success as there is no real connection with the people or understanding of the people.

A group of west-Africans then started this initiative to fill in this void and create a platform for both sides i.e. the BME's on one and the NGO's, charities and the government on the other, to be able to positively interact with one another.

The creation of W.A.D. was initially designed for west-Africans to gather and help each other as a collective but as the formulating of the ideology progressed; it became more about integrating west-Africans with the rest of the community. As such, W.A.D. does not solely cater for west-Africans but B.M.E.'s in general; west-Africans however make up its core numbers of volunteers, organisers and so on.

Since its inception there have been a number of things that have been discussed and mapped out as part of the activities and projects designed to achieve the vision we have. W.A.D. has also been represented at a number of other official events such as; Charity fundraiser, T3SC meetings just to name a few. The general purpose at this stage is to spread awareness of our presence and enlist the aid of those people who feel as we do, to get started on achieving our vision...



WAD thanks giving to T3SC Tameside (2008)



WAD visited Tameside Radio Station in (2008)



WAD team and Tameside Mayor at Denton event



WAD at Denton (Tameside) Cultural event

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

We aim to improve the quality of life of African's and other ethnic minority people living in Tameside and elsewhere by organising meetings and activities like swimming, football, cultural exchanges, dancing and drumming lessons. The committee meets once a month and general meetings are organised when issues need to be raised. We aim to provide information on training, crime reduction, health and social care, employment, benefits advice, volunteering opportunities etc through our Drop-in and One to One sessions. We will be providing drop in session and an education venue.

Training project: Our outcomes are:

- Increased access to training for people who have English as a second language
- Clients and volunteers who have English as a second language will have increased employability
- More people who have English as a second language will be more confident in communicating and integrating with the community and be able to access other key services independently

Translation Service: Our outcomes are:

- Improved access to services for people with English as a second language
- Increased understanding of services, materials and personal correspondence which will help clients to be more independent

Individual sessions: Our outcomes are:

- Improved access to one to one support and advice
- Increased understanding of services, materials and personal correspondence which will help clients to be more independent

Drop-in Sessions: Our outcomes are:

- Increased understanding of services (Housing, Education, Health and Social Care etc) and what is available locally and how to access them
- Increased access to activities/events (drumming, cultural work)
- Increased integration for minority ethnic people
- More choices for minority ethnic people in activities they can get involved in
- Reduced isolation for minority ethnic people

Other activities:

- Increased access to activities/events (drumming, cultural heritage)
- Increased integration for people of all backgrounds



VISION AND MISSION

VISION

“TO PROMOTE POSITIVE CHANGE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & CULTURAL LIFE. ENSURING FAIRNESS, EQUALITY AND UNDERSTANDING AT ALL LEVELS;

TO BE A GUIDING FORCE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLES.”

Over the last 2 decades, the African communities in the UK have grown exponentially, bringing with it a wide range of diverse cultural influences and social effects.

While this can be seen as a positive growth, there are a lot of problems facing these ethnic groups as while it has been growing, there has been no form of assistance available or support provided to aid in the settlement of these people into the society.

A direct result of not having these forms of aid is the rising level of seclusion among these groups rather than the integration of these people.

Our aim is to try and stop this and bring these communities together to better understand one another and integrate themselves properly into the society, allowing them the chance to better communications with the local communities, involving themselves with social activities and trends with out the need to cast aside their own identity/values in order to fit in.



WAD Members Tameside (2011)



WAD Training in Bolton (2011)



WAD Cultural Team



WAD Drumming workshop with Tameside Mayor

MISSION

“TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITIES AS A WHOLE, PROVIDING WEST-AFRICANS WITH A MEANS OF ATTAINING SERVICES, RIGHTS BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THEM”

In line with our vision, our strategy is to ensure all members of this minority ethnic group are able to positively interact with their counterparts and other ethnic communities alike.

The biggest problem facing this community is the absence of infrastructure allowing them to channel their concerns to the appropriate authorities and with the well documented political and military situation on the African continent, most of these settlers are broken families longing for a sense of familiarity with their neighbours. The absence of such social interaction further compounds the current problem of these communities to interact both locally and nationally with the authorities.

The failure of these communities to interact further enhances the negative stereotype often attributed to the youths of these communities.

Overall our job will be to provide adequate resources for these people to channel themselves constructively furthering the goal of proper integration and providing alternatives to the youths of the communities to better apply themselves.

We aim for an almost entirely hands on approach, leaving latitude for self-development to assure and ensure the collective progression of both the minority groups and the community as a whole, as defined in our core objectives



WAD drumming workshop Hyde (2007)



WAD Women Day event Manchester (2013)



Manchester Museum WAD cultural performance (2010)

WAD CORES VALUES

“PROMOTE INTER COMMUNAL EVENTS AND STRENGTHEN BONDS BETWEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES BOTH AFRICAN AND EURO-ASIATIC”

The biggest issue in communities has always been racial and religious differences coupled with cultural values. The addition of religion into their cultures has refined the cultural statutes over time to create the current versions we see now, so to enable a smooth process all these will have to be taken into account when setting communal gatherings.

Westernization is often seen as a debasing/eroding of the original cultural and traditional values by many ethnic groups thus the restraint of many. The easiest way to do this is to present a level plane of familiarity to allow all cultures to interact without halting the much needed interaction among the communities.

The project aims to deliver workshops and events to allow different groups learn about each others cultural values and historical roots with no harm to their own beliefs.

To avoid such things happening, the aim is to create an organisation where we still work at the grass root level to enable all cases to be handled on an individual basis.

In doing so this doesn't restrict us to a particular community but have it such that we can grow to help set up multiple points in other communities just like the McDonalds franchise scheme; All W.A.D. charters following exactly the same constitution, rules and regulations and modus-operand regardless of where the charter point is, in order to provide exactly the same type of service in that community



WAD Funding event (Tameside 2011)



WAD Cultural event (Manchester 2013)



WAD at Tameside You Choose Event 2011



WAD performed Djembe drum in Tameside (2013)

ACTIVITIES AND TRACK RECORD

In the past 6 years we have been developing WAD and have naturally grown as we have reacted to the community. The West African Development (WAD) membership and database has increased from 15 people in 2005, and 70 people in 2008, and 500+ in 2011, and up to date we have on average of over 3000 people on WAD data. We have built good relationships with other statutory and third sector organisations and agencies, and have a good reputation in our community. We have managed grants of over £25000.00 funding came from Tameside local fund and, Awards for All and public fund. We have always monitored the outcomes of our projects which have been successful and we have achieved what we set out to do. We have run our projects very cost effectively as we have very dedicated volunteers.



WAD Community event Manchester (2011)



WAD literacy and training course



Health and Wellbeing Service



West African Development (WAD) women members into WAD holding once a month meeting in order bring our women together, to educate them about their rights, have a voice and create more activities and give them direction and information on where to

find help when need, because after our researches we realized that majority women in particular the BME women in Manchester and UK need help and support as well as education on health, domestic etc. WAD plan is to help empower the women, the women need such like: domestic problem, health issues, eats healthy and keep being fit.

The women are having opportunity to meet new people in the community and share their experiences.

TRAINING COURSES

With regards to management skills, we have all attended training courses in management skills, book keeping, training for working with children and young people, etc with our local Council for Voluntary services. In addition to this some of our members have attended First Aid Training course. We working in partnership with volunteer Centre to provide future training programs as and when needed and also carry out C.R.B check to complete the requirements for working with children. We participate in the networks relevant to our community within Tameside and elsewhere.

Many people within West African Development community in Tameside have a specific skill and advantage of being bilingual. This natural skill should not be underestimated. The unemployment figures nationally, the language skills are used to the enterprising advantage. Our Community providing support to our members from age 19+ who has no job or likely to be out of work or are in low-skilled jobs to benefit for getting into work and training and learning courses.



Community interpreting certificates ceremony by Councillor Cllr Margaret (Tameside 2012)



WAD English language ESOL class Manchester 2013 WAD Community interpreting training course 2013

SUPPORT AND ADVISED SERVICES

Our members are often isolated and hard to reach people in the community, who may be new to the country. West African Development (WAD) provide support in translation for a members of the community ask for support in appointments (hospital and doctor's appointments, Immigration services, benefits or housing meetings) and we have many number of people in our record book who already benefit of our service. We will also be able to translate information (such as health leaflets, personal correspondence) for our members. We are able to translate around 10 different languages such like: English, French, Portugal, Germany, Latvia, Arabic, Pakistan, Creoles, Polish, Swahili, Yoruba, and Lingual.

Comment from Mr Felix Adekpe "I'm original from Togo move to UK in 2008 and have no friends until I met with West African Development in Tameside where I meet with a great people and great Community. WAD support me in my immigration issues to good integration and I'm enjoying my membership with WAD"



WAD member celebrated British Citizenship Manchester 2008

West African Development (WAD) organise meetings and activities like

Swimming

Our members participated in swimming activity which is a good exercise and also a lifetime sport those members and children benefits of fit and healthy.



WAD swimming lesson activity

Football

West African Development organise football activity, started with training and move to 6 side tournament and now get promoted by interring full side the FA league.



WAD football team 2013



WAD team winner Tameside Tournament 2008

Football Activity



Tameside Council Support WAD football team



Guest speaker From T3SC at WAD training Course



WAD Sport event Football Champions celebration



WAD drumming workshop in Manchester

Cultural exchanges, dancing and drumming lessons/events

West African Development organise a drumming and dancing workshop for all and have participated in many events programme across great Manchester and elsewhere. WAD provide a drumming and dancing workshop to school children and also to Communities events, park and local fun day event, charity fund raising event etc.....

Comment of Mrs Da-Silva “Mrs Da-Silva from Benin said the drumming is a good activity that helps to co ordination and concentration.”



WAD and Manchester Mayor drumming workshop

Comment of Mr Mike Lythgoe “Mr Mike Lythgoe from Warrington said that he learn how important drumming is in African culture and help to break down barriers between communities by having fun together.”



WAD, cultural exchange and BME event workshop



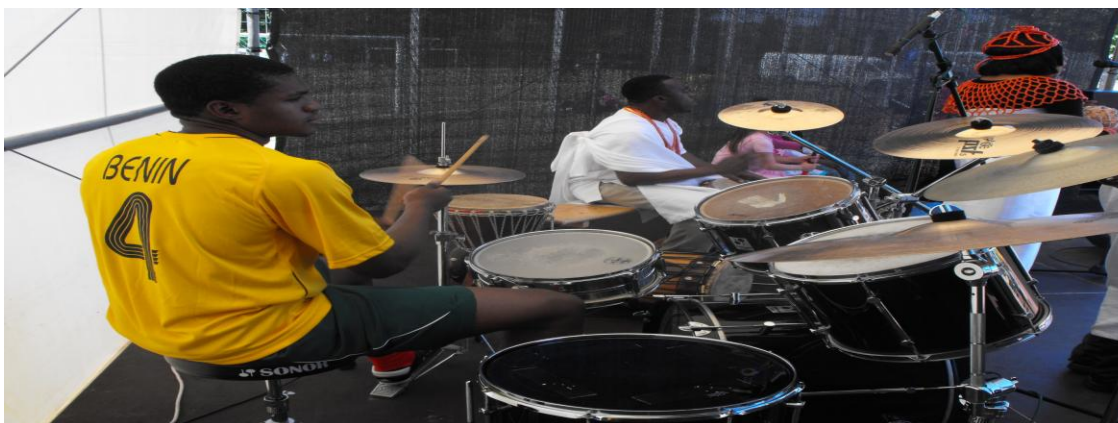
WAD cultural exchange & BME event workshop



School Drumming workshop in Tameside



1st Youngest Councillor Leigh Drennan & Councillor Margaret Sidebottom at WAD fun event



WAD cultural event Art and drumming performance



Councillor Leigh Drennan & Councillor Margaret Sidebottom at WAD Art achievement event





WAD Women International Day event Tameside Manchester (2013)

Example of some of WAD Services Feedback

"I'm Elizabeth and I'm single mother with two children from Portugal leaving in Manchester since 2008. For two years period, my child was refused for school transfer and when I seek support from WAD, my problem was resulted in just six weeks. What it unbelievable for me and my little girl. My Big Big Big THANKS to WAD for great support.

"I'm Umou, I'm 21 years old from Guinea and I'm married living in Manchester and I was under domestic violence problem and WAD together with Greater Manchester Police assisted me to result my problem. Many thanks to WAD"

Trips



WAD Trip to Chester Zoo 2008



WAD Trip to Blackpool (2012)



WAD Football Trip to Berlin (Germany 2010)



WAD Trip to Blackpool 2012

West African Development organised various trips to have a fun and learn the difference in our environment. Parent with children enjoyed a good time in Safari Park as well as our footballer enjoyed and fantastic away tournament.

West African Development (WAD) will continue working more consistent therefore providing a better quality of services.

WAD is delivering outcomes which can be measured against National Indicator (NI) 1 – people from different backgrounds get on well together and NI 11 – engagement in the arts.

Every little helps, your support is needed and any further ideas would be most welcome