

Big Society:


The Equality Impact on BME communities

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V4CE's mission

Providing an authentic, influential voice


Increasing capacity/ demonstrating impact

To strengthen the voice of the Black and Minority Ethnic voluntary and community sector to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities

Raising awareness

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What is the Big Society



Power to comms

- Comms right to bid to run public services
- Community organisers
- Support neighbourhood groups
- Reform planning

Encourage active role in comms

- Encourage charitable giving and philanthropy
- Volunteering in civil servant appraisals
- Big Society Day
- National Citizen Service

Support the VCS

- Support public service delivery role
- Support creation of VCSs
- Public service workers right to take over services
- Big Society Bank
- Local crime statistics
- Right to data
- Reform planning

Power from central to local Govt

- Abolish RSS
- General power of competence
- Housing and planning decision to LAs
- Devolution of power and more financial autonomy

Big Society

- Publish Govt data

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BME VCS: already delivering the Big Society



- Communities coming together to self define solutions to problems – the Big Society!
- Response to failure of mainstream services.
- Sensitive to cultural, religious and linguistic needs.
- Engage 'hard to reach' communities.
- Empowering users and strengthening social mobility.
- Building bridging social capital and creating social cohesion.

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Equality, fairness and the Big Society



- Putting equality into the Big Society: V4CE fringe events
- Responding in a time of cuts
- Engaging young people
- Working better together
- Accountability



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Big Society and BME support organisations



- Value of specialist support
- Collaboration and merger
- Wider support market
- New organisations and needs
- Voice and representation
- Accountability
- Income generation



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Impact of Spending cuts of BME VCS



- Fragile funding base
- Increasing demand for services and new community needs
 - Proposed cuts to legal aid
 - Cuts to ESOL English for Speakers of Other Languages funding
 - Benefit reforms
 - NHS reforms
- Closures and reduction in services

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Solutions: Stories of Resilience



- Partnership and collaborative working
- Accreditation through quality standards
- Improving performance
- Staffing reviews and staff development
- Review of organisation and management
- Effective volunteer engagement



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Big Society: What do we want to see?



- Voice and involvement
- Recognise specialist infrastructure
- Fair funding
- Fair commissioning
- Value specialist public service delivery
- Strategic oversight
- Accountability

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Shared Vision



- Collaboration
- Communication
- Celebration



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Shared Vision: Pledge your support



- We believe the BME VCS is a crucial part of civil society.
- We support the BME VCS to seize the opportunities and tackle the challenges identified in A shared vision.
- We call on policymakers to act on the recommendations and commit to disseminating the messages from A shared vision findings through our networks.
- **Website:** <http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk/shared-vision.html>
Phone: Heather Kennedy on **0207 843 6137**

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