



Press Release –57 October 2009

Launch of a Forum for Surrey's Minority Ethnic Communities

The very first Forum for minority ethnic community and voluntary groups in Surrey, will launch on Saturday 24th October at The Lightbox, Woking. The event promises to be a celebration of cultural diversity in Surrey, with dances and live music performed by different ethnic groups from across the county, alongside a photographic exhibition that will document an array of Surrey's diverse communities, put together by University of Surrey Photographic Society.

The Forum is being developed by Surrey Community Action, in a five-year project funded by the Big Lottery Fund. It aims to strengthen minority ethnic community and voluntary groups in Surrey by providing support for them through training, resources and advice so that they in turn are able to support their communities better.

The Forum will be a fantastic opportunity for minorities to join together to become actively involved in influencing local, regional and national policies. It will help mainstream organisations to engage with minority ethnic communities in order to provide culturally sensitive services. It will also seek to narrow the gap between communities to ensure that all Surrey residents are offered equal opportunity to participate and to make a difference. The Forum aims to be the eyes, ears and voice of Minority Ethnic communities in Surrey.

The launch event will be an opportunity for potential members of the Forum to give their views on what they would like the Forum to achieve. Attendance at the launch

of Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum is by invitation only. To register your interest in the Forum and its launch, please contact Susannah Clarke or Rekha Savania via: Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum, c/o Surrey Community Action, Astolat, Coniers Way, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7HL, T: 01483 459292 ext 208, F: 01483 440508, E: smef@surreyca.org.uk

Surrey Community Action is a registered charity which works to strengthen and support the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) across Surrey through access to advice, training, funding and advocacy. Surrey Community Action actively encourages volunteering and the details of local volunteer centres in Surrey can be found on our website at: www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm