

## HEAR AGM 2020 Policy and Campaigns report -Mhairi McGhee

“To support equality and human rights organisations in London to influence policy and decision-makers on issues that impact on their beneficiaries; share their specialist knowledge, experience and expertise with their peers and contribute to the development of policy.”

### **Pan-Equality Hate Crime**

Reduce fragmentation and create a stronger combined voice in London's hate crime sector through running London's quarterly Pan-Equality Hate Crime network, feeding expertise and expert organisations into the Law Commission hate crime law review and Equality and Diversity Forum/Equally Ours Hate Crime contact group, particularly from under-reporting and intersectional communities  
Extraordinary meeting **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, VAI, N1 9JP, bringing together hate crime, gendered violence, domestic abuse and preventing violent extremism sectors.**

### **Deaf and Disabled Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

Increase understanding of and improve responses to Deaf and disabled asylum seekers and refugees by leading for Deaf and Disabled 'customers' at the Home Office NASF Equality sub-group. This year ensured a rights based, pan-equality approach was used in the production of two HO induction booklets for new applicants and delivering an event for 70+, Intersectionality in Immigration, with presentations from Refugee Council, UKGLIG, Migrant Voice, Windrush Campaign. HEAR's briefings on Disabled refugees' rights will be updated to add new guidance we lobbied for, and have influenced Public Health England, EHRC and Terrence Higgins Trust amongst others when understanding migrants' health rights.

### **LGBTQI+ Diversity**

Finished LGBTQI+ work. Our example working with members to raise the profile and concerns of under-heard and intersectional LGBTQI+ communities demonstrated the how and why of involving Expert by Experience and user-led VCS, and that 'hard to reach' is a choice by delivering a programme where the knowledge of intersex, bisexual, LGBTQI disabled, BAMER and people of faith was given primacy. We continue to build connections between user-led EbE, 'generic' VCS and statutory decision makers, highlight the diversity of London's LGBTQI+ communities and that human rights are universal and inalienable .

### **Mental Health Equality**

Working with BAMER user-led organisations in the borough covered by NWL CCGs influenced the production of Equality Objectives to reduce health inequalities through commissioning and in the implementation the NHS Long Term plan. Designed and delivered a programme of peer-learning for BAMER mental health campaigners in NWL with training from BIHR, Equally Ours, NSUN, Black Thrive and BTEG that has been built on for Awards for All training for Expert by Experience campaigners. Having worked closely with Race on the Agenda and their Healthy Lives and Healthy Minds partners delivered a workshop based on the #HardlyHardToReach campaign at their conference.

## **Digital Exclusion**

Pulling together the experiences of digitally excluded Londoners pan-equality. The production of the "7 Deadly Sins of Digital Exclusion" a one page briefing to highlight that digital inclusion is not about having a smart phone, silver surfer training or the last mile of optic cable or free broadband but creation, curation, entertainment and choosing not to engage online. We have advised Open Data Institute, Legal Education Fund, academics, VCS on how intersectionality, poverty and privacy interact to exacerbate structural inequalities. In development are a literature review of current good practice and academic perspectives and a programme of events to improve understanding of Digital Exclusion and how to overcome it including an even with the ONS and London Plus about ensuring the Digital First census doesn't exclude the least counted Londoners and round-tables that will be launched on Internet Safety Day 11<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Additionally**

Moved HEAR's membership and mailing functions onto Interests Me

Represented London's equality and rights sector at the first day of the Examination in Public of the New London Plan the GLA planning and housing strategy lobbying successfully that the Inspectors demand clarification and publication of Equality Impacts Assessments

Invited to deliver workshop about involving Experts by Experience for Intersectional Equality at international Intersectionality conference at the University of Edinburgh

Manage HEAR's online presence including twitter, google-group, Facebook and the [www.HEARequality.org.uk](http://www.HEARequality.org.uk) website

## **Outside P&C**

Drafted Volunteer Policy to enable HEAR Network to use volunteers to support capacity and make us sustainable

Commissioned to produce a literature review about intersectional stigma and mental wellbeing for Thrive LDN, the Mayor and London Health Board project highlighting London's Mental Health

Delivered training as part of Awards for All training Expert by Experience campaigners that built on Edinburgh University event and Mental Health Equality #HardlyHardToReach peer learning

October 2019 started an additional 4<sup>th</sup> day a week as researcher for NetEquality. As part of this have advised HEAR on improved use of digital technology and tools. I will research how HEAR currently use social media, digital and communications tools for networking and solidarity and ensure that NetEquality and HEAR policy and campaigns work are connected.