

## Civic Life Bulletin

Increasing Ethnic Minority Civic Participation in Scotland

June 2012

Personal experiences of being involved in Civic Life.

- Anas Sarwar MP
- Hamira Khan
- Trishna Singh

Committee/Board/
Trustee Positions

Cemvo Scotland Energy Saving Project
ARE YOU "SWITCHED ON"?







#### **Anas Sarwar MP**

As a Labour Party MP for Glasgow Central, my driving motivation is to end the inequality and poverty I see every day in my home city.

My political conscious was stimulated at an early age after visiting the Gaza Strip; seeing young people of my own age stripped of their youth, struggling for freedom and justice, surrounded by spontaneous violence and carnage.

I learnt quickly that if you truly believe in changing the world around you that you must play your part, in your own street and in your own community.

People often view politics through their TVs as glamorous international summits and MPs debating in London, but the truth is that real politics is firmly rooted in our local communities.

I joined the Labour Party when I was 16 and became active in Party campaigns when studying at Glasgow University. One of my proudest campaigns was being part of the team that campaigned to save the Govan Shipyards from closure in 1999. Going door to door and street to street we collected over 80,000 signatures from local people to establish the shipyards' importance to both the local economy and the local community.

Prior to becoming a Member of Parliament I studied and practiced as a dentist in the National Health Service, our country's best example of equality and the practical application of the Labour Party's core beliefs.

A system funded by the many and available to everyone, because we know that by working together we can achieve much more than we can as individuals.

It is these values that motivated me to stand for Parliament and that still drive my everyday work. Working hard to improve the City of Glasgow and the UK, for every person regardless of status, wealth or belief.

I believe that by creating lasting, skilled employment, we can build a sustainable economy to fund world class public services and ensure that society's resources are distributed fairly in order to protect the most vulnerable in our communities: that is why I am an MP.

Anas Sarwar MP
Deputy Leader of the
Scottish Labour Party
Member of Parliament for
Glasgow Central
9 Scotland Street,

Glasgow G5 8NB Tele: 0141 429 6027

E-Mail: andrew.grant@parliament.uk



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My work these days is to encourage opinions, ideas, involvement and a sense of belonging to the world. I do this by inspiring, motivating and empowering young people to engage with and become more fully involved in our democratic society.



Graduation 2007 Glasgow University with my Grandchildren

I have come to realise that racist attitudes and discrimination are very much 'alive and kicking' in Scotland and this has made me even more determined to remain active in civic life.

#### Hamira Khan, Chief Executive Scottish Youth Parliament

When I took over as Chief Executive of the Scottish Youth Parliament in 2010 I wanted to give young people in Scotland the opportunity to be heard. But my role is about more than creating an organisation which can put a spotlight onto difficult issues. It is also about showing the positive ideas which our young people have. They have a vision for the future of Scotland which is positive and dynamic. They want a Scotland which rejects all forms of intolerance. They want a fairer and more equal Scotland. It is taking these ideas young people have, and working with my team to make them real. Recent achievements include our youth manifesto which received 42,804 responses from young people in Scotland and to go even further - 85,940 votes were cast by young people in our 2011 elections.

My commitment to influence change within our society ensures that I'm engaged in a number of other areas within public life. I'm an online commentator in the Herald Scotland, sharing my views and opinions from the Arab Spring to the male dominance of UK boardrooms and everything in-between. I sit on the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body, Equalities Advisory Group offering specialist advice and guidance on delivering strategy and framework for equality. I'm also a member of various government and public groups including the Curriculum for Excellence Stakeholder Group, Devo Plus and the Commission on School Reform.

But what ultimately drives my ambition is my belief that we shouldn't sit back and expect others to get on with it. We should be participating and contributing to make a real difference in our society. I have a vision for a stronger, more inclusive Scotland that empowers the community it serves, by truly involving them in the decision making process.

#### Trishna Singh B.A Director Sikh Sanjog

In 1975 I married and moved to Edinburgh where I realised that I had been born into a community that was living in a cultural time warp. I felt in order to acquire gender equality for Sikh women, not only in the wider host community but more importantly within our Sikh Community, the answer was to educate and raise awareness of issues that affected Sikh women.

The situation was that the Sikh community was not participating in any form of dialogue in terms of issues that affected them, unlike other minority communities who actively participated and were vocal and ensured their voices' were being heard. I felt it was very important for the Sikh community to engage with other ethnic minority communities and campaign as a collective and not be left on the sidelines.

In 1989, I and a group of Sikh women came together and founded Sikh Sanjog. The primary aim of Sikh Sanjog was, and still is to empower women to assume their own identity in life. Sikh Sanjog has helped countless Sikh women to move on from the confines of their homes where they were isolated and disempowered. In addition to helping the women to achieve their potential, I have over the years worked very hard to break down cultural barriers within our own Sikh community, particularly in terms of gender equality. It's not been easy due to deep rooted cultural prejudices against women. However due to constantly campaigning not only in the wider society but also within the Sikh community for Sikh women's rights I have noticed a change in attitudes and behaviours.

I have come to realise that racist attitudes and discrimination are very much 'alive and kicking' in Scotland and this has made me even more determined to remain active in civic life.

Over the years I have represented the Sikh community on many boards statutory and voluntary. I have recently been appointed to the Community Standards Council Scotland and as Sikh Chaplain to Edinburgh University, I am keen to continue to build links that can create pathways for women of all communities to participate in civic life.

I have realised that Mahatma Gandhi's words: are very true and they have become my goal 'To make change we need to become the change'.

# Committee/ Board/ Trustee Vacancies

Various—The Private and Rented Housing Panel / The Homeowner Housing Panel

Closing Date: is 13 July 2012

Scottish Ministers are seeking to appoint a number of legally qualified chairpersons, surveyor members and housing members for the Private Rented Housing Panel (prhp) / Homeowner Housing Panel (hohp).

The prhp is responsible for determining referrals from tenants concerning the landlord's duty to comply with the Repairing Standard under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006. The Panel is also responsible for making rent assessments in certain types of tenancies and deciding other tenancy matters in the private rented sector.

The implementation of the Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011 on 1 October 2012 will create the hohp which will operate alongside prhp as a single Tribunal Non-Departmental Public Body. The hohp will be responsible for resolving disputes between homeowners and property factors relating to property factoring and land management issues.

- \* Chairpersons must be solicitors or advocates who are either members of the Law Society of Scotland or members of the Faculty of Advocates. Daily sitting fee £316.
- \* Surveyor Members must be chartered surveyors. Daily sitting fee £253.
- \* Housing Members must have qualifications and/or experience of housing/land management/ building repairs/ or factoring issues. Daily sitting fee £163.

Time commitment: Approximately 15 days per annum. Hearings are held throughout Scotland. Interviews will be held during August and September.

The Scottish Government welcomes applications from all suitably qualified and experienced people from diverse backgrounds. Appointed on merit: committed to diversity and equality.

For further details and an application pack, please visit the Private Rented Housing Panel Website:

http://www.prhpscotland.gov.uk/ Alternatively, application packs can be obtained by: Tele 0131 244 3311, emailing TribunalsPolicy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, You should provide your name, address and the appointment you are interested in.

Closing Date: 13 July 2012

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#### **GEM Workspace**

Position: Management board Location: Glasgow

Closing date: 27 July 2012

Role: Gem Workspaces is a charitable company founded in 1987. For 25 years the charity has been working in the field of economic development, specifically by offering work space to let. The charity needs new members to serve on the management board. In particular, the charity will welcome anyone with business acumen or skills and experience in property, marketing and finance. These are voluntary positions. Members of the board are unpaid but reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. Gem Workspaces has been working in the field of economic development, specifically by offering work space to let. Website: <a href="https://www.wrightbusinesscentre.co.uk">www.wrightbusinesscentre.co.uk</a>

**Application notes:** To enquire or apply please contact John Russell on 0141 773 6200 or **johnrussell@gemworkspaces.com** 

#### **Carr Gomm**

Position; Board Member Location: East of Scotland and Scotland wide

Closing date: 30 July 2012

**Role:** The Board of Carr Gomm are looking for motivated volunteers to join the Board. We are a person-centred organisation that supports over 1,400 people to lead their lives safely and to do the things they want to do: in day-to-day living, in planning for the future and in realising dreams. We do this by providing support at home and in supported services. The Board would benefit from additional experience in the following areas: Health and Social Care, law or accountancy. We would also welcome the input of individuals with more general management or professional experience. We welcome applications from all across Scotland. The Board meets every two months – 6 times a year and meetings are held in the evening and last about 3 hours. There are papers to read beforehand. Trustees must be willing to follow up actions resulting from Board meetings with other Board Members. In addition, there are 2 more meetings a year to help with planning and training usually held on a Saturday. There is the Annual General Meeting in November each year and opportunities to attend events involving the people we Support through-out the year. All new Trustees receive induction and ongoing training and learn by talking to more experienced Trustees and by taking part in the meetings.

**Salary:** This post is unremunerated, but all travel and out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

**Application notes:** For an application pack please visit our website: <a href="www.carrgomm.org/getinvolved/become-director">www.carrgomm.org/getinvolved/become-director</a>. Email: recruitment@carrgomm.org or Tel. 0131 659 4777 For an informal enquiry, please contact Lucy Wren, Chief Executive on 0131 659 4777

#### **Queens Cross Housing Association**

Position: Management board Location: Glasgow Closing date: 10 August 2012

**Role:** The ideal candidate will be committed to service excellence, raising standards and continuous improvement. They must also embrace our values, support the concept of a community led organisation and show a commitment to wider role activity to improve the quality of life of our local people. The Board currently meets 8 times a year and members will also be expected participate in project groups and attend training when required. The position is voluntary but reasonable expenses will be paid. This is a great opportunity to contribute to and make a real difference to the local area.

#### **Organisation profile:**

Queens Cross Housing Association is a community led organisation managing over 4000 properties in the Queens Cross area of Glasgow. Website: <a href="https://www.queenscrossha.org.uk">www.queenscrossha.org.uk</a>

#### **Application notes:**

If you are interested, please send your C.V to our HR Department <a href="recruitment@qcha.org.uk">recruitment@qcha.org.uk</a> or by post to Queens Cross Housing Association, c/o HR Department, 45 Firhill Road, Glasgow G20 7BE. An information pack can be downloaded from our web site: www.queenscrossha.org.uk. For an informal discussion about the role, please contact a member of the HR team on 0141 589 7407 and we will direct your call accordingly.

#### Trust Housing Association Edinburgh & Glasgow

Position: Management board Location: Edinburgh and Glasgow Closing date: 16 July 2012

**Role:** Wanted – Talent, skills, experience

Rewards – No salary, no promotion

Eligibility - nodding donkeys need not apply

Still interested? - Read on

Can you make a real difference to the strategic direction of one of Scotland's leading Housing Associations? Everyone has the right to safe, affordable, good-quality housing and that's what Trust provides for older people, families and others in housing need. We manage and maintain 2,400 homes across 24 local authority areas throughout Scotland – and with 3 offices, over 100 sites and 500+ staff, we're a major national employer.

These positions are non-remunerated but out of pocket expenses are paid. Attendance is required at approximately 12 daytime meetings held in Edinburgh and Glasgow throughout the year.

**Organisation profile:** Trust is a progressive and leading provider of a wide range of quality housing and services for older people and others in housing need working across 24 Scottish local authority areas.

Website: <a href="https://www.trustha.org.uk">www.trustha.org.uk</a>

**Application notes:** For more details about this outstanding opportunity to contribute to our future, please contact Bob McDougall, Company Secretary/Chief Executive, on 0131 444 4993; by email: <a href="mailto:bmcdougall@trustha.org.uk">bmcdougall@trustha.org.uk</a>; or by writing to Trust Housing Association, 12 New Mart Road, Edinburgh, EH14 IRL.

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#### **Open Door Accommodation Project**

Job Type: Management board

Location: West Lothian

Closing date: 27 July 2012

**Role:** Open Door seeks applications from potential board members, including a Treasurer, with backgrounds in the public, private or the third sector with an interest in the work of Open Door to assist in the strategic development of the organisation. This is an excellent opportunity for candidates, not only to use existing skills but to acquire and develop new skills notably in strategy development, strategic decision making and financial management all making a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable young people throughout West Lothian. We are especially keen to recruit board members with financial experience.

Commitment is attendance at a board meeting every two months lasting for 2 hours in the evening plus attendance at our AGM. The posts are non-remunerated, however; all travel and out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

**Organisation profile:** Operating throughout West Lothian, Open Door Accommodation Project provides accommodation and support to homeless and vulnerable young people aged 16 - 25.

Website: <a href="https://www.odap.org.uk">www.odap.org.uk</a>

**Salary info:** All travel and out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

Application notes: Please send a copy of your C.V and covering letter marked private and confidential to Rob Jahoda, Open Door Accommodation Project, 217 West Main Street, Broxburn, West Lothian, EH52 5LJ, or email <a href="mailto:rob.jahoda@odap.org.uk">rob.jahoda@odap.org.uk</a>. For more information on the organisation please visit <a href="www.odap.org.uk">www.odap.org.uk</a>. Informal enquiries please phone Rob Jahoda (director) on 01506 207112 or email: <a href="mailto:rob.jahoda@odap.org.uk">rob.jahoda@odap.org.uk</a>

#### **Powerful Partnership**

Job Type: Management board Location: Edinburgh

Closing date: 13 July 2012

Powerful Partnerships is an Edinburgh based citizen advocacy organisation and is actively seeking voluntary Board members who have hands-on experience in:

\* Fundraising, or

\* Scottish mental health/social work

#### Organisation profile:

Powerful Partnerships supports people with learning disabilities across Edinburgh to get their views heard about key decisions on the many important issues affecting their lives.

Application notes: If you want to find out more please contact Duncan on 07857 130942 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:duncan@powerfulpartnerships.org.uk">duncan@powerfulpartnerships.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="mailto:www.powerfulpartnerships.org.uk">www.powerfulpartnerships.org.uk</a>

#### **Blue Triangle Housing Association**

Position: Management board Location: Glasgow

Closing date:20 July 2012

**Role**: We work with people affected by homelessness, providing person- centered support and quality accommodation We work with nine Scottish Local Authorities delivering supported accommodation and floating support services. We own a small stock of accommodation which we maintain and we lease accommodation from other organisations. The majority of our work involves delivering local authority contracts. These contracts are regularly tendered under competitive tendering regulations. We are currently looking at diversification activities to develop new income streams. We are looking for board members who have relevant skills in areas such as:

- supported accommodation and commissioning of supported housing
- housing support services,
- homelessness.
- HR,
- strategic planning,
- business planning, legal,
- financial planning, fundraising,
- business and business diversification

Management Board meetings occur every six weeks where we discuss business planning. Board members also serve on a relevant committee (Finance, Housing Management, Operations (support/housing) and Maintenance and Development) which meets every seven weeks. Meetings are usually held in our Head Office in Glasgow during normal working hours.

We welcome applications from women, people from ethnic minority groups and people with disabilities as they are currently underrepresented on our board. This is a voluntary role. Board membership is unpaid but reasonable out of pocket expenses properly incurred will be reimbursed.

**Organisation profile:** We are a vibrant not for profit registered Housing Association which provides a range of support services to vulnerable people with support needs and those experiencing homelessness Website: www.btha.org.uk

**Application notes:** As we work with vulnerable people we require our board members to undertake the CRBS checks in order to join the Protecting of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

If the work of our Association interests you and you feel that could offer your time and experience then please visit: www.btha.org.uk : e-mail admin@btha.org.uk or phone 01412218365 and ask for an application form.

### Member and Chair Appointments – Scottish Police Authority (SPA) & Scottish Fire & Rescue (SRS) Ref: 0230

Closing Date: 31 July 2012

We would like to offer you the opportunity NOW to register to receive a pack for the any of the following appointments. The pack will be issued to you on the day the appointment is formally advertised (Early - mid July). Full details will published on that day.

If you are interested in applying for either of the Chair appointments please email: reformchairmailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

If you are interested in applying for a Member to the SFRS please e-mail: <a href="mailto:sfrsmembermailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">sfrsmembermailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a>

If you are interested in applying for a Member to the SPA please email: <a href="mailto:spamembermailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">spamembermailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a>

Remuneration: Please see the relevant advert for details of remuneration.

Location: Within Scotland - not further specified

#### Member—The BIG Fund Reference: 0227

Closing Date: 15 July 2012

#### The BIG Fund - Coastal Communities Fund Scotland Panel:

The BIG Fund, the non-Lottery funding operation of the Big Lottery Fund, is looking for members for its two coastal Communities Fund decision making panels in Scotland. One panel will cover the Highlands & Islands and one will cover the Rest of Scotland.

- An understanding of the aims of the Coastal Communities Fund.
- Experience of allocating funding, for example, through grant making or investing funds.
- Expertise in one or more of the following areas: business, finance, economic development and regeneration, investment, capital projects, research, tourism, fisheries and agriculture.
- An understanding of issues affecting coastal communities in Scotland
- Understanding and commitment to diversity issues.
- Experience of working in partnership with different stakeholders (for example, other untary or private sector agencies).

#### The BIG Fund are looking for people to join these panels who have:

Panel members will be appointed for 3 years and the time commitment is expected to be up to 4 days per year. Further information is contained within the briefing pack. Completed applications must be received by Jo Shaw at the Big Lottery Fund by midnight

If you have any queries please contact Tony Crosbie, Funding Manager, the Big Lottery Fund on:



Lancefield House 95-107 Lancefield Street 2nd Floor Glasgow G3 8HZ

Phone: 0141 248 4830 Fax: 0141 221 4439 e-mail: enquiries@cemvoscotland. org.uk



If you would like further information and support in applying for any of the positions featured in this publication or would like to advertise board, management committee, trustee opportunities please contact.

#### Fiaz Khan

Race Equality Mainstreaming Officer Lancefield House 2nd Floor 95-107 Lancefield Street Glasgow G3 8HZ 0141 248 4830

fiaz. khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk





#### **AREYOU "SWITCHED ON"?**



#### Did you know that-

- If you spend more than 10% of your income on gas/electricity you are in fuel poverty?
- Switching to low energy bulbs can save you approx 10% on your bill?
- Leaving your appliances on standby is costing you £££'s every year?



**Switched On** can help, it is a CEMVO Scotland programme aimed at raising energy efficiency awareness amongst ethnic minority communities. It also provides information and advice on energy efficiency, cost of fuel and appropriate measures in the home that can help lift communities out of fuel poverty.

#### **HOW DO WE DELIVER THIS?**

#### **Outreach Events**

These are run like workshops, so are very interactive, you will learn more about:

- Fuel Poverty and what it means in real terms
- Efficient and safe use of heating and hot water systems and appliances
- Paying for gas and electricity, and obtaining the best tariff, saving £££'s
- Grant aid available for energy efficiency measures Easy tips to save energy.

#### One to One Consultation Sessions

We will focus on your and your household's energy efficiency. The consultation sessions will help you to:

- Recognise the effects of fuel poverty on your health and well being
- Understand your household income v the cost of fuel
- Understand what grants maybe available based on your individual circumstances
- Understand energy efficiency measures such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, draught proofing, hot water tank insulation and low energy bulbs

#### **HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?**

Outreach events, one to one surgeries and one to one consultations are all **free** of charge to those from ethnic minority communities.

For further information contact Zarina Ahmad 0141 248 4830 or email: zarina.ahmad@cemvoscotland.org.uk

