

One Voice

In March last year I took over as Specialist nurse organ donation at East Lancashire hospitals in Blackburn. Blackburn has a large BAME community and Niki Hargreaves; my predecessor had just started working on a council run project. The project was in the early stage when I took over and Niki told me to attend a meeting at the council offices and I would find out more. I was not really sure what to expect and curious as to how the project would run. Since this day I have never looked back and have enjoyed every minute of working with the Asian communities in Blackburn. 'One Voice' was introduced by Blackburn and Darwen council and is aimed at delivering community educational initiatives and integrate information into existing health promotion activity in the local BAME community. 'One Voice' explore sensitive subjects within the communities such as domestic violence, forced marriages, TB and organ donation, to name a few.

Since becoming involved with one voice I have delivered several awareness sessions in the local mosques along with one of my male colleagues. I have attended several health melas one of which was attended by 3000 members of the community. I have been on Asian radio and have featured in Asian Image newspaper several times throughout the year. We have worked together to hold teaching sessions for women, men the whole community and recently held a youth week in which we taught several sessions to many of the young people. The youth groups were extremely receptive and keen to know more. They even asked what they could be doing to promote donation within their community and some have written articles to the college magazines and also Asian Image newspaper. I was recently asked to be a guest speaker at the 'One Voice' annual dinner which was attended by over 200 people from the community and the council. It has been an amazing project and I have been lucky to be involved as I have had access to the heart of the communities around Blackburn and Darwen. One of the group members initially told me that he was strongly against donation; he now carries a donor card and has signed onto the ODR. Our next engagement is with older ladies in the community who speak no English. We are also having a banner made for our hospital having some of the young people feature in this signing onto the ODR. The health mela will also be held again in August which we will be present at. The project will continue for at least the next twelve months.

For any additional information please feel free to contact me.

Angela Ditchfield, Specialist Nurse Organ Donation



Sign-up and save a life!

A health campaign is highlighting the desperate need for organ donors among the Asian community.

The Batter Sehat Campaign (Phase 2) run by One Voice in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will be holding a series of events including a workshop to highlight the need of attracting more donors from the BME community.

The Campaign was responsible for a rise in enquiries about organ donation through events specifically targeted at the local BME community, including a health mela in June.

Reema Arshad 16, is looking to sign up for an organ donor card after visiting a community engagement session and the health mela.

"I attended the Batter Sehat health mela and a workshop where I was given lots of information about the need for more donors among our community," said Reema, a St Wilfrid's student.

"I have also got a relation who received a kidney transplant which has potentially saved his life. I think it's a complete no brainer for us to carry a donor card."

There are currently around 4,000 member of the BME community in the UK awaiting an organ donation.

More locally, there are 36 Asia patients awaiting either a kidney or liver transplant. There are 213 people of Asian origin in the area who currently hold a donor card.

Angela Ditchfield of the NHS Blood and Transplant service said, "We are delighted to be working together with One Voice and raising awareness of organ donation. It is fantastic that we can engage with the BAME communities and give them information to help them understand the importance of organ donation. NHS Blood & Transplant hope that by working together lives can be saved."

A special event is to be held on Sunday 15th December (between 1.30 and 4.00pm) in Bangor Street Community Centre, is supported by the NorthWest Blood and Transplant Team and will include talks from donors, those waiting for an organ donation, and those who have been recipients of live organs.

OneVoice presents...

BatterSehat
betterhealth

Organ Donation Explained

Sunday 15th December
1.30pm – 4pm

Bangor Street Community Centre
Blackburn BB1 6NZ

There are 36 people waiting for organ donations in Blackburn from the BME Community.

Speak to donors, those waiting on the list, and others who are willing to donate. Presentations from the Blood and Transplant Team.

Also: Genetics Advice Available.

Light refreshments provided.

onevoice
onevoicenetwork.org.uk

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2013

AsianImage The voice of the Asian community
EVERY FRIDAY

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HEALTH

Organ donor campaign hosts 'eye-opening' talk

■ The need for BME donations is highlighted with workshop, explaining the needs of the community

By SHUIAB KHAN
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THE need for organ donors among the BME community in Blackburn was the subject of a recent health campaign.

The Baiter Sehat Campaign (Phase 2), run by One Voice in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council held a workshop to highlight the need of attracting more donors from the BME community.

The event, in Bangor Street Community Centre, was supported by the NorthWest Blood and Transplant Team and included talks from donors, those waiting for an organ donation, and those who have been recipients of live organs. It attracted more than 50 members of the Bastwell community, to the 90-minute session.



People are willing to receive yet reluctant to donate

Coun Pervaiz Akhtar

Baswell Councillor Pervaiz Akhtar said: "One Voice is doing a very good job in highlighting this area of organ donation."

"They are educating the community in this important matter and we are pleased that they held this event in our local ward. It is a real eye opener that while we people from our community are willing to receive, yet reluctant to donate. Hopefully the Baiter Sehat Campaign was responsible for a rise in enquiries about organ donation through events specifically targeted at the local BME community, including a health mela in June."

Sixteen-year-old Reema Arshad, from Blackburn, is looking to sign up for an organ donor card after visiting a community engagement session and the health mela.

"I attended the Baiter Sehat health mela and a workshop where I was given lots of information about the need for more donors among our community," the St Wilfrid's student said.

"I have also got a relation who received a kidney transplant, which has potentially saved his life."

"I think it's a complete no

brainer for us to carry a donor card."

There are currently around 4,000 members of the BME community in the UK awaiting an organ donation.

More locally, there are 36 Asian patients awaiting either a kidney or liver transplant. There are 213 people of Asian origin in the Blackburn area who currently hold a donor card.

Saadia Rafiq, received a kidney transplant six months ago. She said: "It has changed my life. I can go on to do normal things again

after being on dialysis for over a year. I think that more of these events should be organised to raise awareness for organ donation. I am really impressed with so many young people attending these sessions."

Zabeer Mahmud, of One Voice, explained the importance of the organ donation awareness events.

"We are giving our community some vital information about the process of organ donation. The first phase of the Baiter Sehat campaign showed that our

community is hungry for this information before they make an informed choice of whether to carry a donor card."

Angela Ditchfield, of the NHS Blood and Transplant service, said: "We are delighted to be working together with One Voice and raising awareness of organ donation."

"It was another fantastic turn out from the local community and we hope to have further events such as these to highlight the need of donors."



Parween Awan (second from left), Saadia Rafiq, and Angela Ditchfield from the NorthWest Blood and Transplant Team all spoke at the event.

http://www.asianimage.co.uk/archive/2014/03/14/11078687.Nosheen_Faaiz_Would_you_accept_an_organ/

