

Event to tackle inequalities in justice system

Hyson Green based charity; the Partnership Council, is helping to tackle inequalities in the city's justice system through a unique event aimed at raising public awareness of the work of the Magistrates and the Police, and ways in which the justice system is encouraging, and making it easier, for people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities to apply for jobs or get involved in Nottingham.

The event is being held on: **Wednesday 2nd July at the Vine Community Centre, St Stephens Church Centre, Bobbers Mill Road, Radford, from 9.30am to 3.00pm.**

Highlights include an introduction to the justice system in Nottingham and the role and responsibilities of a Magistrate, by local Justice of the Peace, Tony Malins, and a presentation by Heidi Wong from Operation Black Vote about the Magistrates Shadowing Scheme. The Magistrates Shadowing Scheme was set up jointly in 2001 by the organisation Operation Black Vote, which campaigns for greater equality for BME communities, and the Ministry of Justice.

The scheme offers BME individuals who are interested in joining the justice system the chance to 'shadow' a magistrate, helping to demystify court procedures for example and introduce them to the day-to-day role and responsibilities of the magistracy.

The scheme has proved very successful in recruiting more BME individuals into the criminal justice system, helping to ensure it is more representative of the communities it serves.

The event will also include a talk by the Police, about recruitment opportunities for BME individuals interested in applying for a job in the Police. In addition, the event will include a talk from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue service, stalls ran by public sector organisations as well as charities and voluntary and community groups, promoting job (and volunteering) opportunities and a free barbecue.

Matthew Danquah from the Partnership Council says:

"According to the Institute of Race Relations ethnic minorities are still significantly under-represented in the criminal justice system so we wanted to do something to help tackle the issues.

Nottingham, along with London, is leading the way in making the justice system more representative, with initiatives such as the Magistrates Shadowing Scheme. This event will help to share the message with local people and community groups, and will hopefully encourage more BME individuals to apply for jobs in the justice system. The important thing is to make people aware of the opportunities that exist locally."

For more information please contact Matthew Danquah at the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200 or email matthew@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

Partnership Council • 47 Gregory Boulevard • Hyson Green • Nottingham • NG7 5JA
Telephone 0115 970 8200 • Fax: 0115 970 8200 • Email mail@partnershipcouncil.co.uk