



BMECP ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Empowering Communities. Delivering Change.

BMECP REPORT 2025

**Prepared By:
BMECP**



Executive Summary

2025 has been a year of recovery, strengthening, and strategic growth for the Black and Minority Ethnic Community Partnership (BMECP).



Overview

Through strengthened governance, expanded partnerships, and targeted funding, BMECP has enhanced its role as a vital infrastructure organisation supporting Black and minoritised communities across Brighton, Hove, and Sussex.

Our work this year has focused on:

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis
- Strengthening BME-led organisations
- Improving health, well-being, and social connection
- Investing in sustainability and long-term resilience



About Us

Black and Minority Ethnic Community Partnership (BMECP) is a vibrant, community-led infrastructure organisation established in 2000 to advocate for and empower Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities across Brighton and Hove – with a vision to extend our impact throughout Sussex.



Vision and Mission

At our core, we serve as a resource centre and community hub – a safe, welcoming “house” that connects, supports, and strengthens individuals, families, and groups within the BME community. Our vision is simple yet vital: to create a sustainable and inclusive resource centre that champions the voices, well-being, and development of BME communities and their families



Our Work

At BMECP, our work is rooted in community empowerment, practical support, and shared growth. Each of our services is designed to meet real needs and make a measurable difference in people’s lives.



Governance & Organisational Strengthening

In 2025, BMECP prioritised strong governance and leadership development.

- Trustee training delivered in:
 - Leadership
 - Governance
 - Conflict resolution
- Improved board effectiveness and decision-making capacity

Organisational improvements

Staffing improvements include:

- Made Project, Marketing & Centre Manager role full-time
- Alignment of staff pay with Local Authority standards
- Allocated additional hours to the administrative staff



Grants Received

Funder	Amount	Reason
Groundwork VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme	39,500	Delivered major centre upgrades, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40% reduction in energy usage• 59.1% reduction in carbon emissions
Voice4Change England (VC4E)	46,100	Awarded to deliver the Sussex BME Infrastructure project (Training & Support Programme to strengthen BME organisations).
National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF)	99,501	Approved for a 2-year food project to expand food-led health and wellbeing interventions, increase food bank reach, and improve nutritional diversity.
Lloyds Bank Foundation	75,000	Approved for 3 years to strengthen organisational sustainability



Grants Received

Funder	Amount	Reason
Awards for All	20,000	Awarded for a 2-year BME Fostering Pathways project to increase awareness and participation by BME communities
Household Support Fund (Brighton & Hove City Council)	15,676	Distributed directly to vulnerable households through vouchers and food parcels, helping families mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.
Screwfix Foundation + Household Support Fund (Brighton & Hove City Council)	5000 + 4,500	Allocated for community kitchen replacement to improve facilities and better serve the community

Financial Position

- Significant reduction in organisational deficit
- Projected £46,000 surplus in 2025/26
- Increased diversification of income streams



F

**FOOD SECURITY &
COST-OF-LIVING
SUPPORT**



I

**INFRASTRUCTURE &
CAPACITY BUILDING
SUPPORT**



H

**HEALTH &
WELLBEING**



P

**PUBLIC HEALTH
ACCESS**



E

**EMPLOYMENT &
SKILLS**



C

**COMMUNITY SPACE
& ENGAGEMENT**



Community Impact Highlights



Food Security & Cost-of-Living Support

The Food Bank operates every Friday

- Supporting an average of 48 **households with 72 adults and 80 children**
- Expanded food range to improve nutrition and cultural relevance



+29%

Projected Impact Percentage

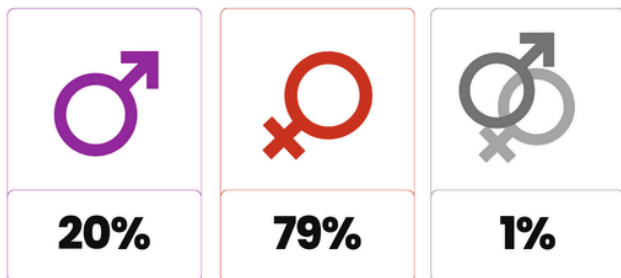
Through the National Lottery project, we can increase the recipients of the food support by over 29%

Infrastructure & Capacity Building

- BMECP has been delivering a 12-month **BME Infrastructure Project** funded by **Voice4Change England (V4CE)**
- The project focused on **capacity building and strengthening collaboration** across Sussex, thus **providing support and opportunities for BME groups**
- Over **160 participants**
- Over **100 organizational participants** by affiliation



Audience Demographics

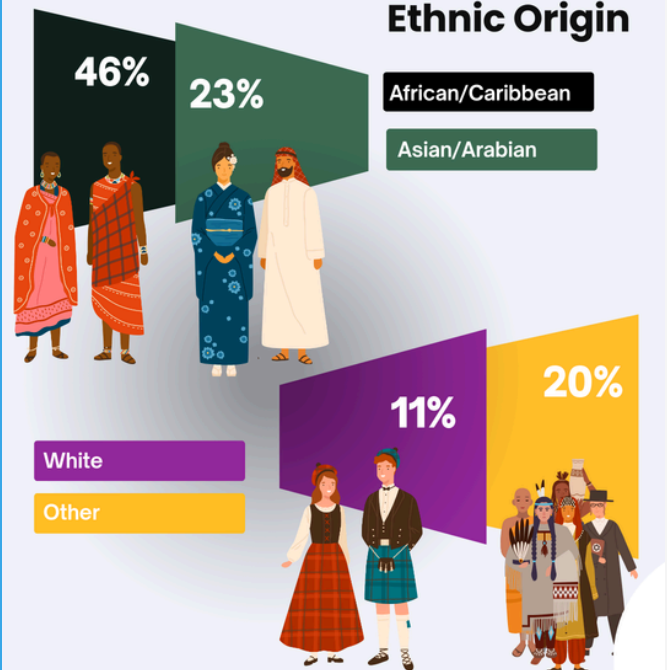


Male
Female
Not Given

Total Audience

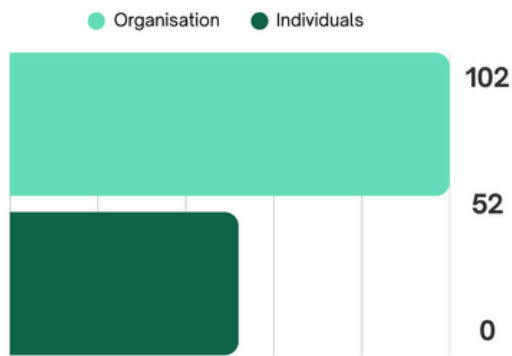
162

Training Event Participants by Ethnic Origin

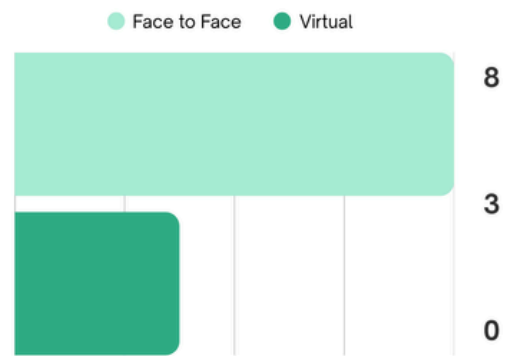


Infrastructure & Capacity Building

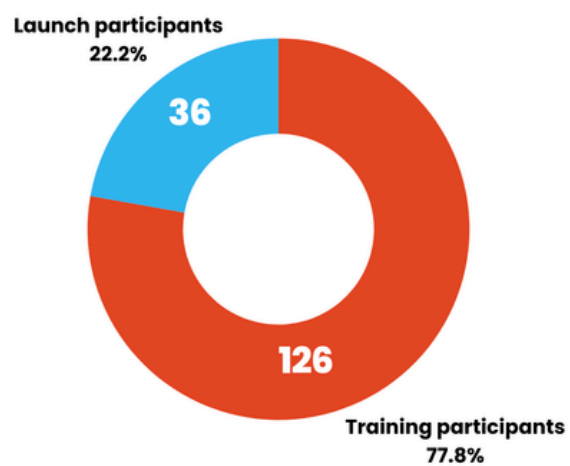
Training Event Participants by Affiliation



Training Event by Delivery Model



Participants by Event Type



Health & Wellbeing, Public Health Access

An average of over **70 people** are supported monthly through:

- Gravity Yoga - Fridays
- Mindfulness sessions - Wednesdays
- Multicultural Women's Group – Tuesdays
- Sewing & creative skills classes - Mondays
- BME 50+ (15+ years running) -

Free venue support valued at **£3,690** per year for the 50+ group

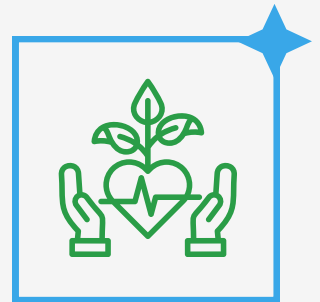
Partnership with University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust

On-site digital vending machine providing:

- Rapid HIV self-test kits
- Home STI testing kits

Improving discreet access to sexual health services

These activities help support over **30 people** monthly



+100

People Supported

Through our health and wellbeing initiatives, we support over 100 people monthly

Employment & Skills

- Weekly drop-in CV and interview support
- Supporting 1–2 individuals per week, despite currently being unfunded
- Identified as a strong candidate for future funded employment programmes



+80

CV and Interview Support

Over 80 people supported with CV and Interview, thereby opening doors to opportunity

Community Space & Engagement

- Hosting an average of 25 events per month
- Welcoming approximately 612 attendees monthly
- Providing a safe, inclusive space for learning, celebration, and connection
- Regular users of the centre include faith communities, youth groups, wellbeing services, community organisations, and educational bodies



+25

Events Hosted

Hosted 25 events montly,
creating a safe home for culture,
learning & connection



Partnerships & Collaboration

BMECP strengthened key partnerships:

- Voice4Change England
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- NHS Sussex
- Diversity Resource International (MoU signed)

These collaborations have enabled greater reach, stronger delivery, and shared impact.

Looking Ahead to 2026



BMECP is developing several initiatives to further support the community, including

- Recruiting a Community Engagement Officer to strengthen community links, develop partnerships, and support engagement with local groups and individuals
- Launch community sports programmes (mental health focus)
- Continuing with infrastructure work
- Introduce digital systems (self-service bookings)

“ Our focus remains on deepening impact, rebuilding trust, and strengthening BME-led organisations so communities across Sussex can thrive sustainably.





**Thank you to our Funders,
Volunteers, and our Community**

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