

Annual Report



2017



Welcome



Inside you will find a brief overview of our work and some notable highlights. We hope this report will give you a sense of our work and how we performed in 2016.

Looking back over the year as we have to do to compile this report, it is always a pleasure to take a step back and review the depth and breadth of our projects and the work we do with our partners and members.

At REMA we are committed to improving outcomes for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities by supporting the wonderful array of community groups, committed volunteers and engaged individuals who are the backbone of both the BME communities and the Rotherham community as a whole.

Our members continue to demonstrate huge commitment and passion to serving their communities and they do it in an environment where resources remain scarce. Their innovation and resilience are typical of the voluntary and community sector and are fundamental to building a more cohesive and vibrant community in Rotherham. Over the next pages, you will find out more about our work, with highlights from all of our service areas. Of course, the report only provides a brief snapshot, so please contact us to find out more. You can do this in person at our office in The Unity Centre or by visiting our website and social media channels.

As always we are grateful to all of our staff, volunteers and trustees for their excellent work on behalf of our members and BME communities. We would also like to recognise and thank all partners and funders for their continued support



BILL THOMAS
Chair of the Board



About us



Who we are

Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA) is the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) sector infrastructure support and development organisation in the Borough. REMA is an independent charity that supports the development of a vibrant, effective and influential BME Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector locally (VCFS).

REMA membership has representation from over 50 local VCFS groups ranging from long established training providers through to faith-based organisations and informal social groups.

VALUES

REMA is the catalyst that brings together different communities which are empowered to play an active role to realise a fairer Rotherham



What we do

REMA provides a wide range of services, including specialist organisational support, volunteering support, advice and training to its membership. REMA also plays an enabling role to support and facilitate joint working between BME VCFS and mainstream VCFS and statutory bodies, and helping to ensure that the interests and concerns of the BME VCFS are represented and championed.

Helping BME people to influence and have a say on issues that affect their lives is a core activity. REMA supports and coordinates RECN, the Rotherham BME Network. This provides a framework for debate and dialogue across the BME VCFS on relevant policy issues and to promote engagement with the public sector.



Our Objectives



STRENGTHEN

An independent and sustainable BME sector in Rotherham



INSPIRE

Improving outcomes for BME communities and celebrating BME communities' contributions to Rotherham's Civic Society



COLLABORATE

Organisations working in partnership to overcome barriers and make a positive difference for BME communities



INVOLVE

Proactive and diverse BME sector engaged in civil society and representing the experiences and needs of local communities.

Strengthen

While austerity is still with us, the need for efficient, organised and capable groups is ever more important. The operating environment for the voluntary and community sector remains difficult and it is even more pronounced within the BME VCS sub sector, where groups are often smaller and more fragile. REMA's primary role is to support these groups to improve their sustainability. We do this through our Get Organised (GO) project. Our capacity building programme is specifically designed to strengthen our member groups. Whether it's advising boards of trustees, helping with recruitment or finding funding, the GO project has helped our members to bring in resources and improve service delivery.



£119,500

SECURED FOR SMALL BME GROUPS

Funding Support Service

WHILST THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WORK DONE BY BME GROUPS IS DONE FOR VERY LITTLE OR NO MONEY AT ALL, SOME ACTIVITIES REQUIRE INCOME TO DELIVER. IN THESE INSTANCES, THE TASK OF SECURING FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS A KEY PRIORITY FOR GROUPS. REMA PROVIDES A DEDICATED FUNDING SUPPORT SERVICE THAT PROVIDES GROUPS WITH A COMPREHENSIVE SUITE OF SERVICES THAT START WITH PROJECT DESIGN AND INCLUDES FUNDING SEARCHES AND BID WRITING. OUR FUNDING SUPPORT DOESN'T END WHEN FUNDING IS SECURED. REMA ALSO PROVIDES ADVICE ON ESTABLISHING POST-AWARD MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS.

In 2016/17 we helped secure funding for local BME groups including; Wah Hong Chinese Association, Mama Africa and Nayi Zindagi. This helped our members deliver a wonderful range of services to their communities. For example, The Kashmiri and Yemeni Older Peoples Group were able to deliver a series of "fit & well" sessions for older people to exercise their bodies and minds

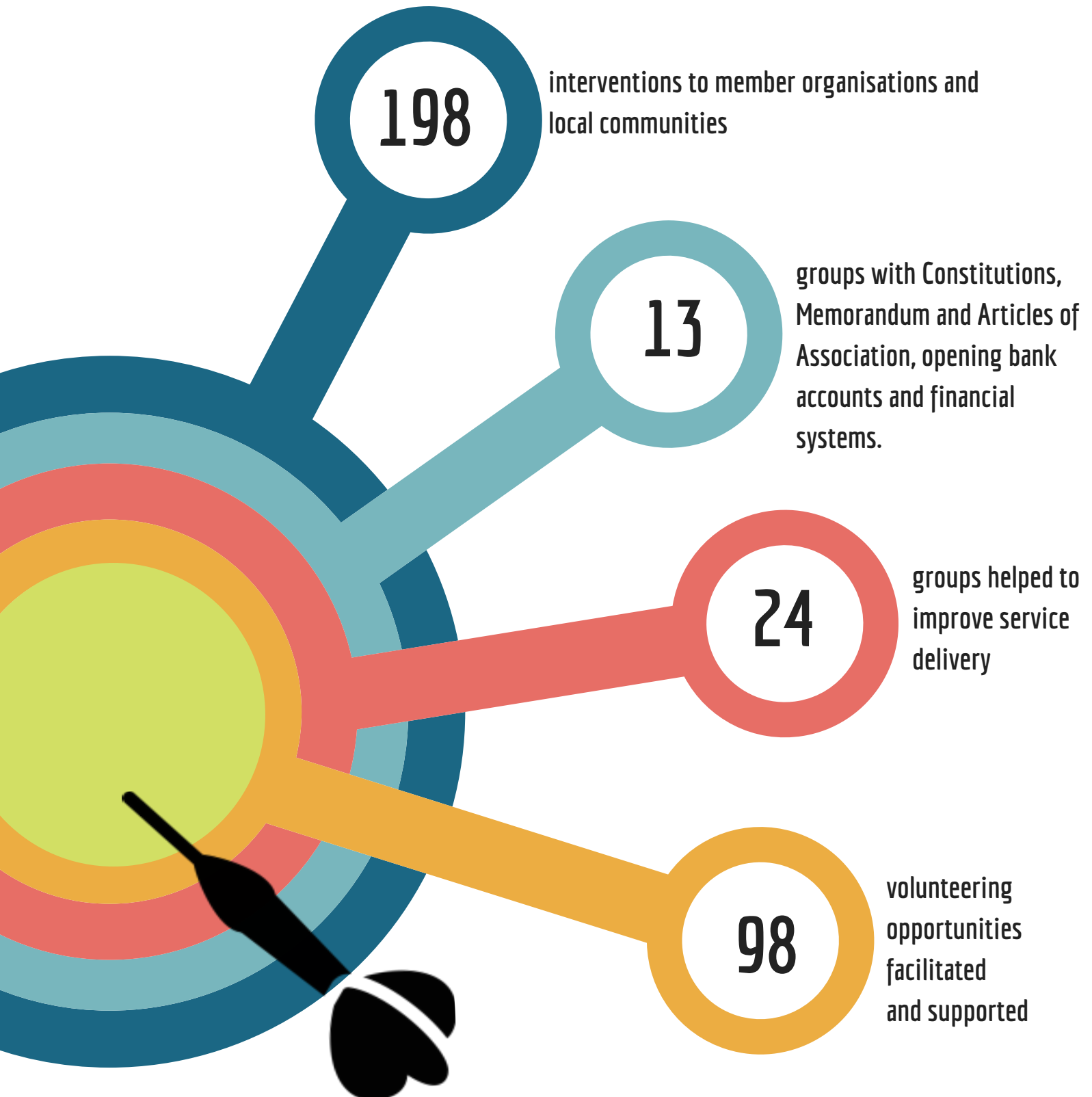


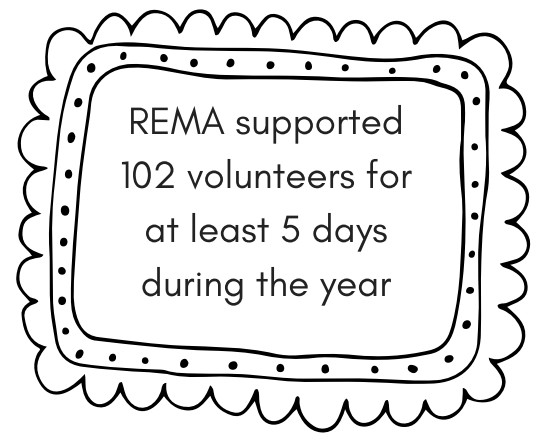
PARVEEN QUERESHI MBE

Mrs Qureshi was presented with the REMA award for Outstanding service (35 years) to the VCS at International Women Day



Strengthen





Inspire

Rotherham is an increasingly diverse town. From the early 1950's migration of people from Kashmir and Yemen to the later arrival of refugees and asylum seekers from the Middle East and Africa and the recent Eastern European communities, all of these communities have chosen to make their new lives in Rotherham. They have all made a great impact on the town and REMA is committed to promoting their cultures and improving outcomes for all.

Volunteering

BME volunteers play a vital role in championing their communities, helping the disadvantaged and supporting services that would not exist otherwise. Volunteering is at the heart of the BME Voluntary and Community sector. Over the year REMA has helped the sector to recruit and support 102 volunteer placements in a wide range of roles and organisations.



REMA's commitment to volunteering has been recognised with the achievement of the Volunteer Kitemarkplus. The kitemark is recognition by Rotherham Volunteer Centre that REMA manages a volunteering programme where volunteers receive a high quality, positive volunteering experience whilst showcasing good practice in meeting agreed standards.

Roma drop-in advice surgeries

Demand for REMA Drop-in advice surgeries remains high. The surgeries provide the local Roma community with access to a Roma support worker to advise and support them through a wide range of issues including benefit advice, accessing healthcare, housing issues, and accompanying people to appointments where language is a major barrier.

2285

appointments were fulfilled during the year and saw people from a range of Eastern European communities including Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Poland.





Inspire

Love is Louder

Our Love is louder project continues to go from strength to strength. Developed as a response to a rise in hate crime and elevated community tensions, the project aims to celebrate communities, bring people together and promote the message that love is indeed louder than hate. Our innovative approach and its impact was recognised at the Epic Awards 2017 (organised by Voluntary Arts who represent over 63,000 groups) REMA won the national award as a 'Epic organisation' for celebrating diversity. The award judges noted "Love is Louder stands out for countering negative perceptions in (and of) the town through an inclusive and creative approach to community cohesion"

In 2016 the project delivered a range of activities including, **Festival of Angels** an alternative December festival highlighting the similarities between faith communities and the prominence of angels spiritually and symbolically in many different cultures. Project culminated in a public event at Rotherham Minster and was featured on ITV News. Over 2000 people took part in the project in a wide variety of activities including lectures, art installations workshops and online discussion groups.

FOLLOW US

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Over 500 people attended a vibrant and colourful celebration of the contribution BME communities have made to our town and culture

6000+

people engaged with
REMA events and
workshops in 2016

Inspire

Community Engagement events

As usual we hosted and took part in a multitude of community events over the year. Some of them were to support social campaigns, others were held to engage communities or inform and educate.

Events included:

- Rotherham Diversity Festival
- Holocaust Memorial day
- Harvest Festival – joint Muslim and Christian event
- Rotherham International Women's Day
- International Roma Day
- Rotherham Plan Launch
- Refugee Week events
- Black History Month
- Islam Rotherham Iftar "Ask me about Islam"
- The Great Get Together
- World Music Day
- Armed forces day
- Let's Get Rotherham Talking

REFUGEE WEEK

exhibition to share refugees' experiences through,
written words, images, videos and live speeches
Photo exhibitions.



Collaborate



Partnership working is essential in an environment where resources are in short supply. The challenges for the sector and the communities they serve are so significant that they cannot be overcome by groups working in isolation. REMA's role is often about brokerage; to introduce the right organisations to each other and then help with the "nuts and bolts" of offering partnership agreements, codes of conduct or other support to ensure collaboration works for all partners.

Unity Centre - Management

REMA's partnership with the Unity Centre remains a key function of the organisation. REMA continues to provide a direct management service to the Unity Centre. This encompasses management of personnel, premises and services. The core Unity Centre offer continues to grow, with excellent feedback from service users and stakeholders alike. A great range of activities including workshops, sports classes, cultural events, conferences, religious gatherings and advice surgeries take place every week. REMA helped secure a £45,000 grant to refurbish key areas of the centre during 2017. A new multipurpose floor has been installed in the large halls and key public areas and amenities have been improved.

Roma CSE Awareness Video

Rema brokered a collaboration with Myplace and Open Minds Theatre Company (OMTC) to produce a Roma CSE awareness video - *viem ako sa citiš* (I know how you feel). Myplace delivers a wide array of youth services and Open Minds Theatre Company has significant expertise in using the arts and media to tackle social issues. This resource was designed and created by young people from the Roma community to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The film is presented in first language (Roma) and has been shared with local agencies and Roma organisations nationally. The video has been made publically available to use on our YouTube channel and was featured on BBC Look North.

Taps project

REMA has supported the Kashmiri and Yemeni Older Peoples Group to collaborate with local artists and a broad range of groups including Casting Innovations, Target Housing, Mama Africa and Shiloh on the Taps Project. This project is about highlighting the diverse history of steel workers in Rotherham. Many people from BME communities worked in the heavy industry of Rotherham and their experiences have been overlooked by local archives and recorded history. The Taps project aims to highlight their contribution and celebrate their shared history with the local community and other migrant communities. REMA provided coordination support, partnership agreements and advice on project planning.



REMA HAS A LONG TRADITION OF CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER WHO WOULDN'T OTHERWISE MEET. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INDEBTED TO REMA FOR THEIR WORK WITH MIGRANT COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEM ENGAGE COUNCIL AND PARTNER SERVICES

SHARON KEMP
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RMBC

Involve

Fair representation is essential to achieving a more equitable society. REMA works to ensure Rotherham BME communities are given the opportunity to voice their aspirations and share their concerns with services and agencies that impact on their lives.

RECN

The Rotherham Ethnic Communities Network hosted by REMA is made up of a wide range of BME VCS groups and communities. Examples of activity at the network in 2016/17 include:

- 7 Pharmacy service consultation events
- Migration Yorkshire Consultation - on EU migrant communities
- NHS Focus Group on proposed changes to Children's surgery and Hyper Acute Stroke services.
- NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan
- Fostering in BME communities
- RMBC Equality and Diversity Policy consultation
- RECN meets RMBC CEO and Leader
- Criminal justice and Mental Health in BME communities
- Compact consultation on RECN
- RECN Community Safety Forum

Roma Forum

REMA hosts Rotherham's Roma Forum. The Forum is an independent platform for the Roma community to discuss, explore and develop solutions for the issues that face their community. Now in its fifth year, the forum is increasingly effective in gathering Roma views and working with partner agencies to develop ideas to combat areas of concern. The Roma Forum has been supported to facilitate discussions on neighbourhood issues, social action projects, access to primary medical care and raising the level of drugs awareness in the community. In 2016 The forum worked on the following areas:

- Eastwood & Ferham Resident Survey
- Community feedback on strategies to tackle CSE
- Hate crime in schools
- International Roma Day Event
- Regional research on Roma communities



Hate Crime

REMA's hate crime projects continued to grow in 2016. Over 80 ladies engaged with a programme of personal development and training to learn about hate crime reporting and tackling local cohesion issues. A number of high profile incidents (including a bomb threat against a local mosque) showed the increasing need for this type of work. Successful arrests and prosecution of perpetrators also helped to improve trust in services. As did engagement with senior officials such as the Rotherham Police Commander Rob Odell, Sarah Champion MP and RMBC Chief Executive Sharon Kemp.

The ladies who underwent the first tranche of the programme were supported to establish a local residents group in the Ferham/Masbrough area and their first major project has been the role of a user-led planning group for the Rotherham Mela. The groups were keen to deliver a landmark event to reach out to other communities and dispel myths and fears of other communities.

REMA continues to play a key role in broader efforts to tackle hate crime. REMA is an active 3rd party reporting centre for hate crime and a support organisation to the independent hate crime scrutiny panel.

Other Cohesion & community safety activity included:

- *The Big Iftar* - Over 100 people from diverse communities, backgrounds, ages and races attended the Big Iftar. The event was organised to give Rotherham's muslim community the opportunity to invite other communities to take part in observing some of their most important religious duties of opening the fast and namaaz prayer. The event was organised as part of the Great Get Together in memory of Jo Cox MP
- *Reclaim the Night* - a march through the town centre for women to reclaim the streets from fear and crime.
- Supported SY Police to set up a whatsapp group for the community and police to maintain a live dialogue on hate crime.
- *Harvest Festival* - Community cohesion event to bridge gap between communities by connecting 40 BME women and children with a local church congregation (St James at Clifton)
- *Community Vigils* - supported faith leaders with community engagement and communications on the vigils for the victims of Manchester, Finsbury Mosque and Grenfell Tower.

Involve

“

THE IFTAR EVENT WAS AMAZING - A BIG THANK YOU TO REMA FOR THAT- AN EVENT WHERE AS A MUSLIM I DID NOT HAVE TO FEEL APOLOGETIC OR THAT I DID NOT BELONG.

ZLAKHA AHMED
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, APNA
HAQ

Communication



Website 2761 hits



539 likes

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/remacharity

View and browse our website

www.rema-online.org.uk

Tweet us

@REMACHarity

We are new to Instagram follow us

remacharity

Communicating with our member organisations and communities is a really important function. As a relatively small organisation it is crucial that we take advantage of the most efficient ways to reach our audience. We make significant use of online media to promote member's activities, share useful information and engage groups and individuals in our work. We always strive to make our communication relevant and timely to ensure its usefulness. We also recognise that for some parts of the community face-to-face remains the best option so we continue to visit member organisations regularly and also use print material to promote activities.



761 followers

Instagram NEW



Governance



REMA is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in 2003. It was established under a memorandum of association, which sets out its objects and powers and is governed under its articles of association. The memorandum and articles of association were last updated on 29th October 2010. REMA obtained charitable status on 11th February 2011. Our principal objective, as set out in our constitution, is to be the sole Umbrella Organisation for all of Rotherham's Minority Ethnic Communities by being the means of engagement for these communities within all regeneration activity at local, sub-regional, regional, national and international levels.

Trustee Board

The Trustee Board has ultimate responsibility for the governance and strategic direction of REMA, ensuring that the charity upholds its ethos and values and delivers its objectives.

Directors

Bill Thomas (Chair)
Subodh Kapoor (Vice Chair)
Steve Rogers
Andoche Massanga
Mark Cummins
Mohammed Monir
Zahir Monir
Alnar Clayton
Sithule Moyo
Fakhary Amerie
Marie Konjatiova
Elias Chisambara
Paul Newman
Angham Ahmed
Yasmin Ishaq
Mohammed Ramzan
Anne Marie Lubanski

Management

Operational management of REMA is delegated by the directors to the Chief Executive, who is accountable to the Trustee Board for the stewardship of the charity. The Chief Executive attends Board and Committee meetings.
Chief Executive: Azizzum Akhtar
Charity Number: 1140365
Company Number: 4730630
Bankers
The Co-operative Bank
27 Bridgegate
Rotherham
S60 1SN
Accounts prepared by:
HSL Accountancy Solutions

We would like to acknowledge the support and importance of our partnerships with all of our funders, volunteers and partner agencies that have supported the delivery of our services

