



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OPEN DAY

High numbers of service users, carers, friends and families and cross section of people from the community attended APASENTH AGM and Open Day 2011 held at the Brady Centre on Thursday 24th May 2011.

Opening reports were delivered by the Chairman (Amir Hussain) who talked about a successful season for the organisation in 2010, while hoping this can continue and encouraged staff to take challenges in this recession climate and as cut announced by the government. The usual thanks were passed on to those who volunteered their time and efforts into managing and working for the organisation in various capacities. General Secretary (Tobaris Ali) echoed the chairman's comments as well as giving thanks to those involved in managing and running project within the organisational setup which allows APASENTH to develop towards its goal. Treasurer (Shoriful Nessa) ran through the 2010 accounts and described the difficulties of APASENTH due to the economic downturn.

The election of Board Members conducted by Humayun Kabir. As per memorandum longest period holding 1/3 of the board member retired and positions re-elected.

Guest speaker Richard Fuller MP, in his speech, hugely praised APASENTH services and wished it success in the future. As the member of All Party Parliamentary Group, he encouraged APASENTH to expand its activity out to Bangladesh to help vulnerable people with disabilities. The deputy high commissioner for Bangladesh in the UK Allama Siddiki described APASENTH as an ideal organisation and said that Bangladeshi community should be proud of its successes. He assured that the Bangladeshi government would be happy to support APASENTH in expanding its services out to Bangladesh. The guest speakers unveiled the Investors In People (IIP) plaque for APASENTH.



Director (Mahmud Hasan MBE) talked about the development of different projects and shared plan upcoming projects. He added that soon APASENTH will move to new premises and better services will be provided to people with disability and carers. Manager Home and Community Services Shuab Ahmed and Habibur Rahman Kabir, Manager, Opportunity Zone talked about bidding and its impact and personalisation. Learner Sadi expressed his satisfaction and interest as deputy leader of Learners Forum.



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All projects had their individual stalls with colourful presentation along with gift item for Open Day. Cultural show was one highlight of the day where Learners, staff out and professional singer performed which was presented to entertained the ordinance.

### Summer Day Trips — 2011

Four (4) Day Trips during summer school holiday takes place every year for service users, parents/carers and for their family. The aim is to provide with excellent opportunity for our clients to undertake activities in various different locations like Seaside's, Theme Parks, Fruit Farms, Animal and Adventure Parks, Zoo etc. The exciting summer day Programme for this year are as follows:

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July-11— Botany Bay, Kent (seaside)**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July-11— Gulliver's Land Theme Park Milton Keynes**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July -11— Colchester Zoo**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July-11— Sports and Fun day**



**June 2011, Issue— 13**

### EXCITING

**APPG supports APASENTH**

**Croydon Nash College Transition Event**

**APASENTH marks carers week 2011**

**Free ESOL course for Carers**

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## ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP SUPPORTS APASENTH BANGLADESH PLAN

APASENTH, one of the leading BAME organisations working for the people with learning difficulty and disability, is considering expansion beyond the boundary of greater London, in effect, beyond the boundary of the UK. This was revealed by Mahmud Hasan MBE, director of APASENTH, who was leading a delegation from the organisation, in a regular meeting of All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Britain-Bangladesh held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at the House of Commons. The delegation was invited by the APPG to make a presentation on APASENTH's projects and programmes for the people with special needs and its future visions.

APPG chair Ms. Anne Maine MP presided over the meeting and the deputy high commissioner for Bangladesh in the UK Allama Siddiki was invited to it as guest participant. Among others Richard Fuller MP, APASENTH treasurer Shoriful Nesa and senior officials from the organisation were present at the meeting.

Mahmud Hasan, in his presentation, told the parliamentarians that a fair number of Bangladeshi-origin parents approached to APASENTH and wanted to know whether APASENTH is able to extend support to the people with learning disability in Bangladesh, who, as a result of their condition, are the victim of social stigma, discrimination and economic destitution. He also pointed out that his organisation is ready to consider expanding its services to people with learning disability in Bangladesh provided APPG extends its comprehensive support and the Bangladesh government offers definitive and effective support and cooperation to such an initiative.



Ms. Anne Maine MP, chair, APPG welcomed the idea and promised to give full patronage to APASENTH in this venture. Bangladesh deputy high commissioner assured full cooperation on behalf of his government and asked APASENTH to prepare a Concept Paper about the scheme after conferring with all stakeholders in Bangladesh and in the UK and take steps to launch a pilot project in Bangladesh at the first phase.

Director of APASENTH assured the meeting that his organisation will take all necessary actions in producing an efficient strategy regarding the project within a short span of time.

### Benefit Awareness Meeting

APASENTH Advice and Advocacy Project arranged a Benefit Awareness Meeting on 13/06/2011 at 10.00am – 12.00pm in Montefiore Centre. The prime objectives of the meeting were to inform clients about the recent changes in benefits. A group of about 50 clients attended the meeting and received information about Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and other changes in benefits. Parents and carers shared their ideas and discussed different issues. Syeda Gulshan Ara, the project leader headed the meeting through providing information and answering queries. Mohammed Chowdhury, project worker, performed as a facilitator to make the benefit awareness meeting successful.



### Remembering Shiraj Ali

A congregation (Milad Mahfil) was organised by APASENTH on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June in memory of late Shiraj Ali, a former learner of Opportunity Zone who died in a road accident on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006. All learners, staff members and parents/management committee members participated in the assembly to show their respect to Shiraj Ali and his family.



### Thoughts

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things.



## APASENTH MARKS CARERS WEEK 2011

On 13<sup>th</sup> June APASENTH has celebrated Carer's Week 2011 with the slogan of "The true face of carers". Along with free information and advice, a number of free and valuable services were provided for the carers on the day. The services includes: advice and information on benefit, Summer day trips for carer, Free carers pack at boots, Free ESOL course for carers, Information from Life Long Learning Tower Hamlets, Barts and the London NHS Trust, information about Cancer Screening and Seminar, Promotional information from DLR and refreshment. A total of 72 parents / carer visited the event and got information about their rights and services available for them as a carer of a disabled person/s.



### Horticulture for this year

Learners from Opportunity Zone took part in their favourite activity of horticulture this year. They were able to cultivate vegetable and flower at Stepping Stone Farm at Stepney, East London successfully. This was a source of vast excitement within Learners and staff group. This



year's success was even better than ever. Learners were applauded as they managed to produce the biggest marrow within the farm.



### Sensory Impairment

Sensory Impairment Team from Resource Centre, 40-50 Southern Grove, Mile End has visited Opportunity Zone in May 2011. They have provided important information about visual and hearing impairment and how to get support from. They also provided information on disability advocacy network, freedom pass, taxi card, housing and other benefits for people with learning disabilities. A group of learner participated in this seminar.



### Croydon Opportunity Zone in Nash College Transition Event

APASENTH Croydon Opportunity Zone was invited and took part in a day-long Transition event jointly organised by Nash College in Bromley, national charity organisation Livability and Bromley Mencap on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of June at Nash College campus in Croydon Rd, Bromley, Kent. The theme of the day was 'Getting A Life That Matters'. The event was aimed at families and young people with special needs aged 14 years and over who are going through transition.

Co-ordinator Muhammed Sattar led the APASENTH team at the event. Support worker Tayyaba Khan and Nurul Chowdhury were with him. APASENTH set up a stall at the venue where organisation's various publications and other works were displayed. A great number of parents, carers and families visited the stall and took significant interests in the services being provided by APASENTH in different parts of the capital.

David McBride, the mayor of Bromley visited APASENTH stall and assured all possible help and cooperation to the organization in expanding its services to the London Borough of Bromley. He praised the culturally appropriate services that APASENTH is providing to people with learning difficulty and disability from different ethnicities. Earlier the mayor formally opened the event which was also addressed by Claire Howley Mummery, principal, Nash College and Eddie Lynch, chief executive, Bromley Mencap.

Guest speakers at the opening session were Dame Philippa Russell OBE and Mandy Himpson. Kate Jackson from 'Dimension' spoke as the guest speaker in the closing session.

Donna Burgan, Transition Project Worker of Nash College coordinated the whole event.



## LBTH and APASENTH's joint initiative —



○ Reading ○ Spelling ○ Sentences ○ Punctuation ○ Writing ○ Stories ○ Speaking ○ Listening ○ Games

### Family Learning ESOL

Improve your English to support your family

### Supporting your Families Needs

At APASENTH (Brady Centre) on Wednesdays from 9.30 am to 12 noon, from 2 Nov 2011 to June 2012.

**Who is this course for?**  
Parents and carers

**What will I gain?**  
You can achieve an accredited ESOL qualification.

**What will I do?**  
Join a course to help you to improve your English in order to support your family's needs.

**When are the Initial Assessments?**  
Weeks 21.09.11 – 09.30 am to 12 noon  
Weeks 28.09.11 – 09.30 am to 12 noon  
Weeks 05.10.11 – 09.30 am to 12 noon  
Weeks 12.10.11 – 09.30 am to 12 noon  
Weeks 19.10.11 – 09.30 am to 12 noon

**How long is the course?**  
You will need to attend class every Wednesday from Nov 2011 to June 2012.

To enrol speak to:  
Nasima Begum Ali or Syed Zafer  
on  
Tel: 020 7375 0554

APASENTH, Brady Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, London E1 5HU, Tel: 020 7375 0554



Lifelong Learning Service  
"Learning for life, the world, for all"



### Recruitment

APASENTH recruiting 10 Trainee Project Workers (Pool Worker) for Opportunity Zone, Field Care Supervisors for Home and Community Services and Women's Respite Service Co-ordinator. Please visit [www.apasenth.org.uk](http://www.apasenth.org.uk) for details.

### CQC visit

Care Quality Commission made an inspection visit on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Visit so far went well and assessor was pleased as we provided necessary documents, record and evidence as requested. APASENTH Home & Community Services is CQC registered provider of culturally appropriate homecare services since 2001.

### ASD Post Diagnosis Workshop

For parents who have recently received a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum

Workshop run in Bengali & English

13<sup>th</sup> September 2011

9.45am – 2.30am

Wellington Way Centre

1a Wellington Way

Bow E3 4NE

To participate/refer contact Nasima Begum Ali; email: [nasim@apasenth.org.uk](mailto:nasim@apasenth.org.uk) Tel: 0207 375 0554 (ext. 207)

### Census 2011

There has been a nationwide census undertaken every ten years in England and Wales. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) posted questionnaires to around 25 million households in England and Wales. Questions covered health, national identity, citizenship, ethnic background, education, second homes, language, religion and marital status. Tower Hamlets, like all local authorities, relies on census population statistics to identify local needs for public services.



APASENTH and census jointly run 3 seasons (Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April) to assist local people. APASENTH service user and community people highly appreciated this.

### Baishakhi Mela

To promote learners skills and keep community cohesion upholds APASENTH information Stall at Baishakhi Mela on 8<sup>th</sup> May at Weavers Fields Park, London E1 organised by Opportunity Zone. Learners and staffs attended through out the day on a rota basis. It was a good experience for learner and they enjoyed so much. Learners also sold some stuffs and gain experience of sales and marketing. They also enjoyed traditional Bangladeshi dance, music and food.



## APASENTH

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APASENTH is one of the leading BAME organisations, working for people with learning & multiple disabilities, their carers and parents, in Tower Hamlets and Greater London since 1984.

[www.apasenth.org.uk](http://www.apasenth.org.uk)