



Newsletter and Activities for April, May, and June 2023

The renewal season, spring, is here which brings new hope to everyone's life. We started this year with exciting fresh commitment on delivering our new activities and continuing all successfully. Read our [Activity Guide attached](#) to see for yourself the ongoing activities and projects.

In this edition you can read all about how we celebrated the journey of volunteers and at the end we'll give you an insight into some of the things you may not know at Diversity Matters North West!

Volunteer Celebration 2022

The last 2 years we have not been able to meet face to face and celebrate the wonderful achievements of our volunteers, this year is the first time since the pandemic we are able to come together and showcase what our amazing volunteers have been achieving! On the 26th of November, we held our Volunteer Celebration inviting service users, volunteers, partners, commissioners, and key dignitaries.

The event was a great opportunity to recognise the journey and achievements of the volunteers who are a vital part of our organisation and the work we do. The event had celebrated and recognised our volunteers, offered networking opportunities, and promoted the diverse services, all under one roof.



The event was a space to bring together our partners and service providers to promote services to the local community, so the women are more informed about what is on offer in Tameside. DMNW also launched the start of a new women's interpreting service, and newly designed website on that day! We thank our volunteers, partners and dignitaries that made the time to come and celebrate this day with us including for the very first time, The Vice Lord Lieutenant Mrs Sharman Birtles MBE DL, The Civic Mayor of Tameside Council Michael Glover and Mayoress MS Anne Gordon, Councillor Betty Affleck, Councillor Peter Robinson, Councillor Helen Bowden, Councillor Shibley Alam, DMNW Chair Caroline Gregory.

The program started with the opening speech of our chief officer Gemma Gaskell. She welcomed everyone and thanked to all our wonderful volunteers, our board members, guest speakers and partners for being in the event to make it a special celebration. According to her "we have been working very hard to get our services up and running as we have adapted to a new normal. One thing that hasn't changed is that being a

Chief Officer at Diversity Matters is not just a job, it is a privilege. Watching our staff and volunteers work together to provide essential services and support to people who need it the most is what makes this Charity fantastic.”

DMNW Chair Caroline Gregory said “You have had time to look at the different types of work we do, all of them developing skills and support within this community. None of this could happen without volunteers. Remember volunteers are not free, they are priceless. I think it was really a great celebration of all the volunteers, hearing the stories of volunteers was inspiring and being here was joyful”.

All the volunteers were given the appreciation certificates and some volunteers received special awards like Volunteer of The Year, Continuous Support Award, Outstanding Volunteer Award, Exceptional Award and Little Helper Award. The main attraction of the event was volunteers sharing their journey with everyone.



Ann Welsh, who was awarded as **Volunteer of The Year**, mentioned “To be truthful I honestly don't feel I deserve any awards. Visiting the offices of Diversity Matters North West, and the opportunity I have had to meet and be amongst the team who work there has been a privilege. They have given me a warm welcome for which I am very grateful”.



The **Continuous Support Award** was handed to the amazing lady, Syeda Nessa. She has been an inspiration for a lot of women in the community, her commitment and dedication are admirable. She always comes into the office with a big bright smile on her face. She lights up our office with her positivity and lively character. She has bags of hidden talents, and she is an amazing cook. Her cooking has been very popular, and she has come a long way on her journey to setting up her own [catering business](#). Her contribution and dedication to the work with Diversity Matters North West has been incredible.

The **Outstanding Volunteer Award** was presented to Ummah Rabeya Syeda whose journey began with DMNW 14 years ago as a volunteer and she is our team member now working as a casual worker, carrying out different roles. We are extremely proud to have her on the board.

Asma Yaser, **Exceptional Volunteer Award** holder, is being involved with us since 2014. She attended many of the mental health training sessions arranged by DMNW and other organisations and have also completed the Community Interpreting Course Level 2. These trainings have increased her confidence level and she has enlisted herself in our Casual Workers list for Interpreting service.

Our youngest volunteer, Anisah Khan, received little helper award for her spontaneous contributions. “I think I'm the youngest volunteer for Diversity Matters North West. I started volunteering when I was in primary school at 5 years old, coming into the office with my auntie. I enjoy arts / crafts and helping with tasks around the office.”

At the end of the event, The Vice Lord Lieutenant Mrs Sharman Birtles MBE DL expressed her feelings: “I thoroughly enjoyed being here. It's been an absolute joy to

meet the ladies, mainly ladies who are confident and wonderful doing fantastic work in the community. And it's been a pleasure to be here.”

Did you know?

- **We always need Volunteers:** We cannot run without our valuable volunteers, and we are always on the lookout for different types of volunteers to support us on the projects. Our volunteers not only do valuable work for us, but they gain new skills and experience, make new friends, and immerse themselves in the local community in the process. So, if you live in Tameside and have a few hours to spare, [please get in touch!](#)
- **We are now able to accept donations through Facebook and Website:** Help us to continue to provide support to the local community across Tameside, by donating on our website [donate function](#) or Facebook. Our supporters can also create their own campaigns to help to fundraise and support our core work with vulnerable people from minority communities. [Create your own campaign here.](#)

Keep in touch

We are available on the phone, via email and all staff members have mobile phones. Our centre is open as usual, 20 Great Norbury St, Hyde, SK14 1BR. All contact details are available on the [contact page of our website](#).

Also, don't forget to follow Diversity Matters North West on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). You can read all about the team, our trustees, our volunteers, what we do, and much more on our website www.diversitymattersnw.org.uk.

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