



## Newsletter and Activities for September, October, and November 2022

Autumn is on and we are fully functioning and happy to be at everyone's side post pandemic. Read our Activity Guide attached to see just how DMNW is providing services!

This quarters newsletter is all about one of our amazing CEO's - Gemma's 10 years with DMNW and to launch our new interpreting service!

### Gemma Gaskell – The Gem and inspirer to All!!!

Gemma joined DMNW in 2012 as our Youth Work Coordinator and since has managed multiple projects. 3 years later, in 2016, after returning from maternity leave, Gemma took on the joint CEO role with Rehana Begum, the rest is history as they say!



Living in Tameside, Gemma often saw others around her struggling. Seeing this, she always wanted to help people and make a difference in society. With this passion to help, Gemma soon joined the local youth club once she left school to help vulnerable young people. From there, Gemma went on to continuing her studies and eventually work for a local supported housing program for homeless, vulnerable women. With a keen thirst for learning, Gemma studied Spanish as an additional language in college which presented her with the opportunity to move and live in Spain for three months! Gemma loves outdoor hiking and walking and a big fan of Manchester United. She is a mother of 2 children and loves cooking and spending time with her kids.

Coming from a youth work background, and holding a BA in psychology and criminology, Gemma impressed the interview panel and joined the team at DMNW as the Youth Worker Coordinator. Soon after, Gemma took on the wellbeing project and supported the set-up women's support women with our previous chief officer.

Caroline Gregory, Chair of Diversity Matters' Trustees illustrates this point: "In the 10 years since she came to work at DMNW Gemma has proved herself to be a fantastic asset. She has worked extremely hard, developed new skills and confidence, and taken on many new responsibilities and roles with enthusiasm and good humour. She is passionate about her work and keeping DM on track providing services that local people want. There have been many challenges through these years which Gemma has tackled either individually or with the team, and usually been successful. She is outstanding, I am very glad to be her friend and colleague."

Rehana Begum, our other half of the CEO, says, "I couldn't imagine job sharing with anyone else! These last few years have been an adventure and a half but working alongside and with you has been amazing. The drive that you have to help those around you is a testament to the amazing work you have accomplished and continue to do so. I welcome you with open arms as you join the 10-year gang! Here is to celebrate your 10 years with DMNW!"

Nisma Akhtar, our Peer Mentor Coordinator, says "there's a good head at the helm of this organisation in the form of our forward-thinking CEO, Drum roll!!! Gem G!"

According to Paul Deaville, our data administrator, "I have been here for 8 years and over that period have noticed something that pops up with wearying frequency: The head-in-hands, and ineffectiveness from other organizations with whom I have had to deal with, both in personal and professional capacities. This is also something I hear many tales about from friends and acquaintances. I usually respond with "we don't operate like that, we have processes, protocols and systems to deal with this and it's not rocket science" And it finally occurred to me that this is probably the norm for many organizations, but not to us. This is due to the exceptional ability and dedication of both our CEO's. This exceptional management is delivered without any degradation to warmth and friendliness, perhaps even is a part of it."

Ruhela Begum, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, chimes in, "I feel privileged to have worked with you over the years. These past 10 years has been one of the most positive and rewarding experiences of my life. Your unique guidance and support have been instrumental in helping me achieve my professional goals, and for that I am forever grateful. You always see the best in others when they cannot see it in themselves. Keep shining!"

Mahmuda Begum, Development Worker (Befriending) says, "I would like to congratulate our CEO Gemma for her years of hard work and effort. She is an inspiration for me. Thank you for supporting me whenever I needed you. I wish you all the best for the future."

## **Local Interpreting Service Launches at DMNW!**

This quarter we would also like to introduce you to our new service, the Women's Interpreting Service. Our mission for this service, is to provide

- 1) local employment opportunities for local residents and
- 2) a local and quality community interpreting service to meet the appropriate communication needs of all our clients.

We believe that everyone has the right to equitable access to services. Our aim is to ensure a confidential and professional service solution that a) promotes the ethics and standards of the health and social care and education sectors and b) that meets the needs of the Local Authority's, VSCF and Business sectors their staff and their patients and customers. Please find the Interpreting service brochure and contact details with this email.

## 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 soon on our website:** To ensure we continue to be able to provide support to the local community, we now use Facebook as a fundraising platform, where our supporters can create their own campaigns which contributes financially to our projects. [Create your own campaign here.](#) Our website is being set up to allow for quick donations to support the work we do for vulnerable people of Tameside.
- **We are committed to providing health support:** During this pandemic we are uniquely placed to support as we can reach diverse communities in languages that are not always catered for in mainstream media. [Call us anytime and leave a message.](#) We speak Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and Bangla.

## Keep in touch

We are available on the phone, via email – all staff members have mobile phones, and again in centre whilst adhering to safety guidelines. 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 also read all about the team, our trustees, our volunteers, what we do, our future plans and much more on our website [www.diversitymattersnw.org.uk](http://www.diversitymattersnw.org.uk).

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