



Newsletter for October, November and December 2025

We have hit the ground running after the School summer holidays with restarting our regular sessions and some new ones too! Please see our Activity Guide for details on all our sessions. The transition from summer to autumn always feels reflective and time for giving thanks for whatever harvest we have received so this edition we want to celebrate some of the very special people that we have the honour and pleasure of working alongside. One of our valued Trustees has received an MBE this year and our amazing colleague Shibley Alam has been selected as the Civic Mayor of Tameside – read more about their stories below.

Shibley Alam -Civic Mayor of Tameside

Our lovely staff member Shibley Alam was announced as the 50th Civic Mayor of Tameside earlier this year. She is the first woman born in Bangladesh to be Mayor of Tameside or any authority in the north of England. Shibley was born in Bangladesh and moved to the UK when she was eight years old. She has worked tirelessly to support the local community and was elected to Tameside Council in 2019. As well as being the Councillor for Hyde Werneth ward, she is also a trustee for Hyde War Memorial and Hyde Millennium Park ensuring that local public spaces are well maintained and respected. In addition to this she sits on various panels within the council where she is a valued and respected member who always endeavours to advocate for the needs and values of the local community.



Figure 1: Shibley Alam Civic Mayor of Tameside and her Consort Mr Mohammed Khairul Alam (Photo Credit TMBC)

When asked about her role as Civic Mayor Shibley said:

"As the first British Bangladeshi female Mayor in the North West of England, I stand on the shoulders of those who came before me and pave the way for those yet to come. This role is not just a personal milestone it is a message to every young person, especially girls from diverse backgrounds, that no dream is too distant and no barrier too strong. Together, we rise by lifting others."

Cllr Rilly Shibley Alam, Civic Mayor of Tameside

Shibley has worked at Diversity Matters North West for 7 years as a Development Worker having previously being both a service user and a volunteer. Shibley is a highly valued and respected colleague; her warmth and compassion shines through in all that she does and she is an inspiration to everyone she meets. She leads projects focussed on Health and Wellbeing within the South Asian community. Her regular Women's Hub offers a friendly space for women to meet, chat, enjoy craft activities and explore the local area through walks to promote a healthy lifestyle. Shibley also runs our Chayer Adda Men's group sessions which encourage men to engage in well-being activities and to get together to chat and share ideas or concerns in a safe space.

We are extremely proud of Shibley and all her achievements in her public, political and professional life and are so happy to have her as a colleague and friend.

Muzahid Khan MBE DL

We are proud to recognise the achievements of one of our valued Board of Trustees, Muzahid Khan MBE DL, who has been honoured as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his long-standing and ongoing dedication to community and charity work.

Originally from Bangladesh, Muzahid moved to the UK in the 1970s and has since become a well-respected figure in Oldham and across the Northwest. He is a published author, community champion, charity supporter, business coach, and mentor.

Muzahid's wide-ranging contributions include his Trustee role here at Diversity Matters North West, as well as at Maggie's Cancer Centre Oldham. He is Enterprise Director at Upturn Enterprise Ltd. He also serves as a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater Manchester. Before joining our Board, he was Chief Executive Officer of Diversity Matters North West, guiding the organisation with vision and dedication.



Figure 2 Muzahid Khan MBE DL. Board of Trustees member

His career began in the public sector, working across council departments, where he specialised in regeneration—a role he describes as giving him the privilege of “witnessing the transformation of communities.” In 2021, he published his personal memoir, *The Gift of Giving*, a book that reflects his lifelong commitment to improving the lives of others.

Reflecting on his journey, Muzahid shares:

“Hard work always brings its own rewards, but when that effort is devoted to helping others, the rewards are far greater — they come back as blessings and positive change in people’s lives.” –Muzahid Khan MBE DL

We are truly honoured to have Muzahid as part of our leadership. His achievements, experience, and tireless service make him a respected pillar of the community and an inspiration to all.

Final thoughts

Here at Diversity Matters North West we are proud and supportive of all our staff, volunteers and service users. The outstanding achievements and recognition of Shibley and Muzahid are results of their astounding devotion to helping others. Both are truly inspirational, and we endeavour to carry our pride in them as motivation for us as we continue to strive to improve our local community. Your continued support is very much appreciated! Our social media is where we publish up to date information and news so, please make sure you **follow** us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for all the latest news!

Did you know?

- **Data Bank** - We have 02 data SIM cards that are available and need to be activated before the end of October 2025. If you or someone you know is struggling with internet access, is over 18 years old and on low income then they can get a FREE SIM card from us. [please get in touch!](#)
- **Hate Crime Reporting Centre:** In our fight against inequality, we are now able to support individuals to report Hate Crime. Although anyone can report hate crime, we realise it is not very easy for some. We at DMNW offer a safe place for victims and affected people to speak to us and we can support with reporting any instances of Hate Crime. All contact details are available on the [contact page of our website](#).
- **We are now able to accept donations through our Website:** Help us to continue to provide support to the local community across Tameside, by donating on our website [donate function](#).

Keep in touch!

We are available on the phone, via email and all staff members have mobile phones. Our centre is open as usual, Hyde Healthy Living Centre, 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](#), [Instagram](#) and [Linkedin](#) You can read all about the team, our trustees, our volunteers, what we do, and much more on our website www.diversitymattersnw.org.uk. We also have a [YouTube channel](#).

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