



Newsletter for January, February, and March 2025

Happy New Year! As the festive period fades and a bright new year begins, we wanted to seize the opportunity to share some of our recent celebrations. In October 2024 we held our annual Volunteer Celebration and then in November 2024 we were honoured to receive a Kings Award for Voluntary service. This prestigious award recognises the invaluable work we continue to do in the community.

Kings Award for Voluntary service

The King's Award is awarded to local voluntary groups to recognise their work in and impact on local communities and is the equivalent of an MBE. Diversity Matters NW is one of 281 local charities, social enterprises, and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Majesty The late Queen's Golden Jubilee and, was continued following the accession of His Majesty the King. 2024 marks the second year of The King's Award for Voluntary Service.



The award recipients are announced on the King's birthday and although we were notified earlier, we had to keep the secret until the 14th of November 2024. This was no mean task as the excitement levels were sky high! We are so proud and grateful to receive this award, which is a testament to all the hard work, dedication and care our volunteers show. The Press were on hand to spread the great news and you can read the [Tameside Reporter article here](#).

Representatives of Diversity Matters NW will receive the award crystal and certificate from Diane Hawkins, Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester later this year. In addition, two volunteers from Diversity Matters NW will attend a garden party held at Buckingham Palace in May and June 2025, along with other recipients of this year's Award.

Volunteer Celebration October 2024

Our annual Volunteer Celebration was an inclusive and heart-warming event. We gathered volunteers, service users, Trustees, staff, local dignitaries, agencies and family and friends to celebrate and acknowledge the progress and contributions made by our wonderful volunteers.

Each of our volunteers received a Certificate and thanks from Caroline Gregory, the Chair of our Trustees Board and Betty Affleck, the Civic Mayor of Tameside. A select number of volunteers also received an 'Outstanding Contribution' award which personally recognises elevated dedication and commitment to our values and cause. Our dear Afsana Begum received the Volunteer of the Year Award. This award is for our most deserving volunteer. Despite her personal challenges she overcomes daily, she is punctual and committed in helping to run the weekly sessions.



Figure 1 Volunteer of the Year - Afsana Begum receiving her award from The Civic Mayor and The Chair of our Trustees Board.

Speaking about her volunteering journey, our Volunteer of the Year, Afsana Begum, said "I just want to say big thank you to diversity matters for giving me opportunity to grow and overcome my self-esteem also encourage me to share my journey in front of everyone. I would like to continue my volunteering with DMNW as I feel they are the best to support our community according to the needs." Afsana Begum, 2024.

Other well- deserved awards included:

- Excellent Volunteer of 2024 - Gulshana Ali, Mohammad Nasir Khan and Rabeya Panna
- Dedicated Volunteer Award - Sayeda Nessa, Rabeya Syeda and Ann Welsh

The day was filled with praise, thanks, and respect for all our volunteers and the continuing support they offer to the local community through our organisation. After the award presentations we heard testimonies from some of our volunteers on how working with Diversity Matters NW has enhanced their own lives and sense of well-being. This was followed by the sharing of a meal provided by some of our volunteers who went onto start their own catering business with much joviality and conviviality by all attendees. Local partners attended and were on hand to provide information and support.

A huge Thank You to our amazing sponsors Boots Denton Crown Point and Ahmed Brothers Cash and Carry, Hyde who donated prizes for our "Lucky Dip" stall. Handmade chocolate brownies (made and donated by one of our talented volunteers!) for sale which added to the fun atmosphere.

This is one of the most important dates in our annual calendar as our Volunteers simply mean the world to us – without them we could not continue to create the impact that we do locally in supporting women from minority communities. We do hope you will be able to join us next year in celebrating our fantastic volunteers. Alternatively, if you

would like to sponsor the event and awards, please do get in touch with Lesley@diversitymattersnw.org.uk

Did you know?

- **We always need and welcome Volunteers:** We cannot run without our valuable volunteers; we are always looking for different skillsets to aid us in our projects, so we'd love for you to get involved. We have three projects which we are recruiting people to get involved with on a voluntary basis. These are peer mentors, learning mentors and health and wellbeing volunteers. we are recruiting volunteers for. Peer mentors provide support to women in crisis, it is great. 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. 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 our Website:** Help us to continue to provide support to the local community across Tameside, by donating on our website [donate function](#). Our supporters can create their campaigns to help fundraise and support our core work with vulnerable people from minority communities through Facebook. [Create your 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](#) 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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