

# Helping People from Seldom Heard Groups



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# What is BME?

BME is the name given to people from black minority and ethnic groups.

Today we are going to talk about how we can best meet the needs of learning-disabled people from BME groups.

We will share Grapevine's experiences working with people from BME groups.





# In Warwickshire

Since 2015 Grapevine have worked with **530** people with Learning Disabilities. 10% of these people are from a BME group.

12.5% of the population in Warwickshire are from a BME group.

The 2011 Census estimated that in 2015 there would be **9570** people living in Warwickshire with a learning disability.

This means that today there are potentially over a **1000** people with a Learning Disability from a BME group living in Warwickshire.

**HOW DO WE REACH THESE PEOPLE?**



# Why is it important to reach BME groups?



- To build a community that works together it needs to reflect all people
- Everybody working on the same goals together makes people in their community united
- To empower voices from all groups in society to be heard

# What we have done

- Worked with people from a BME group in Grapevine's Speaking Up and Outreach sessions
- Grapevine have engaged with local faith leaders (who have communicated to others in the community)
- Connected with the Irish Travellers community through engagement with the local community development officers
- Attended LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) events.
- Built a relationship with WREP (Warwickshire Race and Equality Partnership)



# Lessons Learnt

- Grapevine wants to create a sustainable community for seldom heard people.
- Value comes from building relationships based on trust
- Sharing stories helps connects people and inspires others
- A **Call To Action** asks for commitment to future activities and engagement



# Ali's Story

- Ali wants to be an actor on East Enders
- Ali has a learning disability and Downs Syndrome
- He joined a local drama group.
- He made new friends and built a community of his own people
- Ali now has a script writer and does regular performances and his friends go and see him



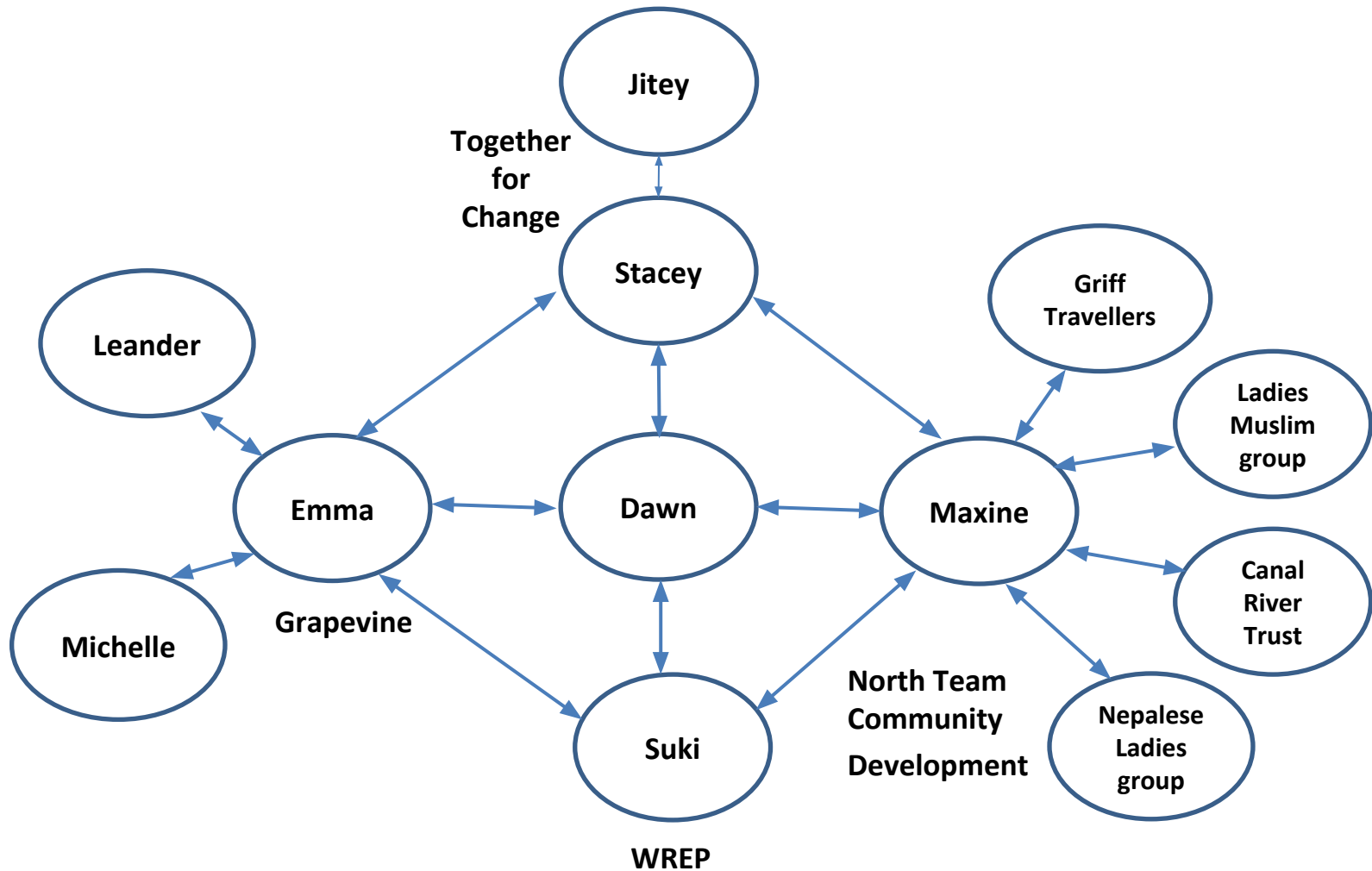
# What we want to do

- Grapevine wants to create a sustainable community for seldom heard people with learning disabilities
- Grapevine has made strong relationships with local community members who already work with BME groups.
- Grapevine would like to share stories to build relationships and trust with BME groups in Warwickshire.
- Grapevine would like to identify natural leaders who could be taught to tell their own stories.





# Building Relationships in Warwickshire



# CALL TO ACTION



- Tells us about the people in your community
- Do you know of a group we could attend?
- Do you know a person who would like to share their story?
- Could you share your own story?
- Speak to Dawn Nicholls 024 76631040 Ext 108  
or email [dnicholls@grapevinecoveandwarks.org](mailto:dnicholls@grapevinecoveandwarks.org)

