

# **Your Services Your Way**

## **Awareness Day For People With Learning Disabilities**



The staff proudly holding the banner



Talking about their careers



One of the workshop tables

The Peacemakers organised an event on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008 to raise awareness of the services, which are available for people with learning disabilities and their carers from various places. More than 40 people attended the celebration. Individuals who attended the event were given the chance to talk about their careers and discuss their job roles. In addition to this some people from the BME groups were also asked questions regarding people with learning disabilities and the services that are provided.

Those who attended were separated into five small groups, each of these groups discussed what services could be offered to individuals with learning disabilities and their carers. In the group discussions, many people stated that activities such as arts, crafts, swimming and sports would be more appealing to individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, members of the groups also highlighted that individuals with disabilities should be offered more education to enable them to read and write. Some of the groups held the opinion that disabled people should be taken out on day-trips, to places like historical parks and seaside resorts. It was also requested by group members that people with disabilities should have free access to transport in order to move around the community without any problems. Most groups took the view that



Trying his hands on the drum



They are beating the drums



The food is ready; come and serve yourself

carers should meet regularly for self-support and encouragement.

It was suggested that carers should be more appreciated and extra support should be made available to them. There should be more information service providers for BME carers. In addition to this, groups pointed out that more help should be given to community centres to be able to cater for people with learning disabilities. Groups insisted that individuals with disabilities should be given access to social functions such as clubs, food, music, dance and singing. Furthermore, people suggested that schools should teach children to respect people with learning disabilities as they would with any other individuals.

In the group discussions people would like to know why there is not enough funding for awareness raising events and training.

At the event, The Peacemakers provided activities for people with learning disabilities such as drumming. They also provided African food at the event and a member of The Peacemakers read a poem.

People were interested in being part of the BME Voice so that they can ask questions and get answers. They also wanted information that they can share with others regarding the services that are available.