

Hertfordshire BME Health Conference.

On the 8th March, 47 people representing wide range of organisations participated in the 'Hertfordshire BME Health Conference' in Hoddesdon.

The event was initiated by Ethnic Minority Association in Broxbourne and it is being organised in partnership with B3Living, Hertfordshire County Council, ADD-vance and National FGM Centre. It was being held to help health professionals, teachers, local authority staff and people from all communities improve awareness and get information

and support on three main topics: FGM, ADHD and Autism and Loneliness.

The speakers included: Mary Oni, Senior Practitioner from the National FGM Centre, Melanie Peeke, Specialist ASD/ADHD Trainer from ADD-vance and Andy Nazer, Speaker and



Ageing Society consultant.

The event was funded by Hertfordshire County Council (Locality Budget Scheme, cllr Alan Searing Division).

Patsy Spears, Chairman of the EMA said: We are delighted that we were able to organise this event. The attendance clearly demonstrates that it was a very good idea. I hope that this initiative gave all delegates an opportunity to learn something new, challenge stigma, break down barriers and help to reduce health inequality, particularly in relation to the BME communities.

Michal Siewniak, Community Development Manager for the CVS Broxbourne and East Herts added: I think that we achieved what we originally set out to do; to create awareness around topics which are often portrayed as difficult and sensitive. Our event was an important 'enabler' and platform for advancing our understanding on: FGM, Autism, ADHD and Social Isolation.

For more information about the EMA and this event contact Michal Siewniak, EMA's Project Officer on: 07825 02176 or email: michal@cvsbeh.org.uk