EMIC Newsletter #2 – Summer 2026

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Dear Friend,

This second issue of the EMIC Newsletter brings together recent activities, community developments and useful information from across our work in Canterbury.

In this edition, we look back at EMIC's recent engagement with Kent Police, celebrate an important moment of representation at The Beaney, and share opportunities for young people, alongside information about our Community Space and how to become part of EMIC.

Chairman’s Welcome Note

As we publish the second issue of the EMIC Newsletter, I am pleased to see the continued development of EMIC as a place where communities can connect, access useful information and participate more fully in the wider life of Canterbury.

Over recent months, our work has continued both within our Community Space at the Canterbury Baptist Church and through engagement with organisations and institutions across the city. Our recent session with Kent Police is one example of the kind of dialogue we want to encourage, creating opportunities for members of our communities to ask questions, share concerns and engage directly with those providing important local services.

We have also been pleased to see the portrait of our Trustee and former Mayor of Canterbury, Keji Moses, go on display at The Beaney. Moments such as this remind us of the importance of representation and of recognising the contribution that people from our diverse communities continue to make to the civic and cultural life of Canterbury.

Alongside these developments, EMIC continues to focus on practical opportunities, particularly for young people, families and community organisations. Our summer work placement initiative is one example of how we hope to strengthen connections between young people and organisations while creating opportunities for experience, learning and confidence-building.

As EMIC develops, our aim remains to strengthen connections across communities, provide practical support and information, and create opportunities for greater participation and visibility.

I hope you find this second edition useful and that it encourages you to remain connected with EMIC and the work taking place across our community.

Oliver Enwonwu

Chairman

Ethnic Minorities in Canterbury

EMIC’s Talk With The Police



Creating Space for Community Conversation

EMIC recently hosted a Talk with the Police, bringing members of the community together with representatives from Kent Police for an open and informative conversation.

Held at Canterbury Baptist Church, the session provided an opportunity for people to hear directly from the police, ask questions and discuss issues affecting their communities.

communities.

For EMIC, creating opportunities for direct engagement with local services is an important part of helping communities feel informed and able to participate. Sessions such as this can help improve understanding, make services more accessible and provide a constructive space in which questions and concerns can be raised.

EMIC will continue to create opportunities for dialogue between Canterbury's minority communities and the organisations and services that work across the city.

Keji Moses' Portrait Now on Display at The Beaney



A Significant Moment for Representation, Leadership and Community in Canterbury

The portrait of Keji Moses, former Mayor of Canterbury and Trustee of EMIC, painted by Oliver Enwonwu, Chairman of EMIC, is now on display at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge.

The portrait was celebrated at a private viewing attended by the current Mayor of Canterbury, EMIC representatives, friends and members of the wider community.

Guests gathered to recognise Keji’s service, honour her contribution and reflect on the importance of seeing diverse leadership represented within Canterbury’s civic and cultural spaces.

For EMIC, the occasion also speaks to the importance of visibility and representation. Recognising the people who contribute to the life of Canterbury helps ensure that the achievements and experiences of its diverse communities are represented as part of the city’s shared story.

The portrait can now be seen at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge in Canterbury.

Introducing Your Voice: EMIC's New Podcast



Your Voice: Real Stories. Real People. Real Impact.

Everyone has a story, and every voice deserves to be heard.

Your Voice is EMIC's new podcast, creating space for honest conversations, lived experiences and different perspectives from across our communities.

For our first edition, we'll be exploring the experiences of Black people living and building their lives in a new country, with conversations around culture and identity, belonging, wellbeing, aspirations, resilience and hope.

Watch this space for more information and find out how you can be part of the conversation.

Your story matters. Your voice matters. You matter.

A WEEKLY SPACE FOR SUPPORT, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY

Fortnightly (every two weeks) on Thursdays
2:00pm – 6:00pm | Next sessions: 12 June & 26 June

No appointment needed

EMIC's Community Space offers a welcoming fortnightly drop-in session designed to support members of Canterbury's diverse communities through practical advice, shared learning, and social connection. The programme includes signposting, English classes, volunteering opportunities, food bank referrals, CV writing support, employability skills, access to computers, and guidance with job searches. It also creates space for networking, cultural connection, and social interaction within a supportive environment.



Venue: 6-8 Longmarket, Canterbury, CT1 2JS | **Contact:** 07309 704041 | **Email:** emic.commspace@gmail.com

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Community Information

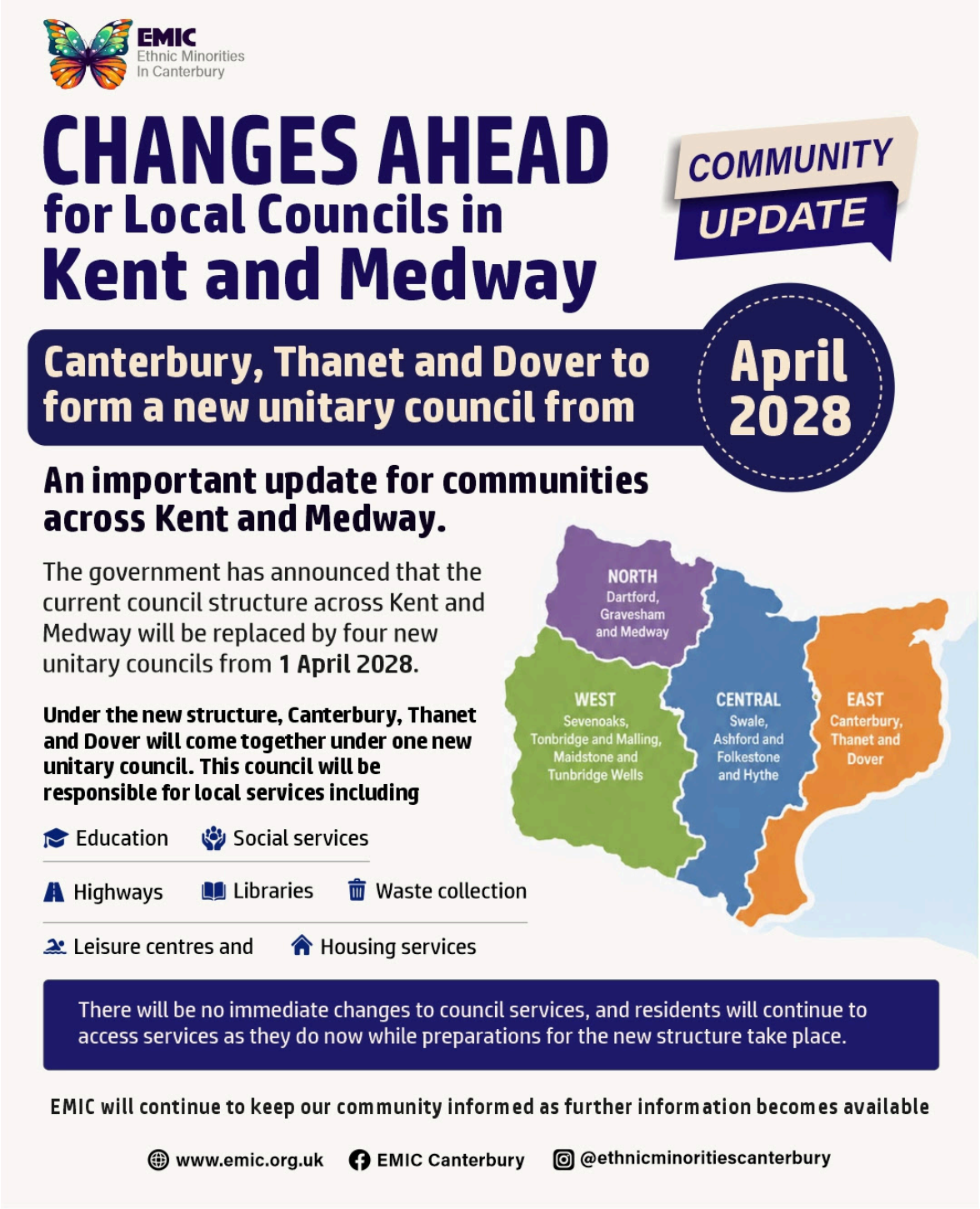


Practical Mov positive asylum decis

Developed by the North East Migration Partnership and the Regional Refugee Forum North East with input from people with lived experience, the resources are available in 10 languages and include leaflets and videos.

Topics include receiving a decision letter, finding appropriate help, applying for benefits, finding employment and somewhere to live, managing money, travel and driving, and accessing further education

Changes Ahead for Local Councils



The Government has announced changes to the structure of local government across Kent and Medway, with Canterbury, Thanet and Dover due to form one new unitary council from 1 April 2028.

There are no immediate changes to council services. Residents should continue to access services as they do now while preparations for the new arrangements take place.

EMIC will continue to share relevant information as further details become available.

Canterbury City Show



EMIC was pleased to be part of the Canterbury City Show, which took place at Westgate Gardens and Westgate Square on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July 2026.

The free two-day event brought the community together for music, arts, food and family-friendly activities, celebrating the diversity and creativity of Canterbury.

The show offered a wonderful opportunity for residents, families and community groups to connect, enjoy local talent and take part in a vibrant weekend in the heart of the city.

Networking Event Brings Black and Racially Minoritised-led Organisations Together in Canterbury



Community organisations from across Kent gathered recently for the Networking Event for Black and Racially Minoritised-led Organisations, hosted by Ethnic Minorities in Canterbury (EMIC) in partnership with Bridging Change under the Phoenix Community Trust project.

The event brought together charities, community groups, CICs and local organisations to connect, exchange ideas and explore opportunities for collaboration. Participants also discussed common challenges facing Black and Racially Minoritised-led organisations, including funding, organisational development, capacity building and building stronger partnerships.



Stay Connected

Keep up to date with EMIC activities, community information and opportunities:

Website: www.emic.org.uk

Facebook: EMIC Canterbury

Instagram: @ethnicminoritiescanterbury

Email: info@emic.org.uk

6–8 Longmarket, Canterbury, CT1 2JS

EMIC continues to build connections across communities through information, dialogue, practical support and shared opportunity.