Improvement East
Eastern Region Sector Led Improvement

B:M 2026 HONOURING COMMUNITIES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

"We have a rich, vibrant, powerful history and heritage that has shaped global history." Antonia Ogundayisi

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY, HERITAGE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Join us throughout October for a series of inspiring online events exploring Black history, identity, community, belonging and anti-racist practice. Together, we will challenge assumptions, broaden understanding and celebrate the contributions of Black communities to our shared history and society.

In Search of My People
09/10/26 13:00 Speaker: Dr Arlene P. Weekes

Join us for an inspiring Black History Month event exploring the rich contributions, experiences, and impact of Black communities across Britain. Through powerful discussion and personal insights, guest speaker Dr Arlene P. Weekes will reflect on heritage, identity, belonging, and the importance of understanding our shared past to help shape a more inclusive future.
This engaging session offers an opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate the diverse stories that continue to enrich our communities today.
Click Here to Book tickets

Beyond the Single Story: Reclaiming the Richness of Black History
14/10/26 14:00 Speaker: King Simpson

Black history is often taught through a narrow lens centred on slavery and colonialism. This thought-provoking session explores the rich histories, societies and achievements that came before and examines how these narratives continue to shape perceptions of Black identity today.

The session will consider how Black children and young people are understood and supported within care and professional settings and how professionals can develop more informed and equitable approaches to practice. **Click Here to Book tickets**

Black Achievement, Community & Social Work
22/10/26 13:00 Speaker: Ray Addai

Moving beyond familiar historical figures, this session highlights the achievements of Black professionals, pioneers and communities and explores what their stories can teach us about identity, resilience, belonging and anti-racist social work practice.

Participants can expect thought-provoking discussion, critical reflection and opportunities to challenge how we understand and support the children and families we work with.
Click Here to Book tickets

From Tilbury to the Nature Island: Honouring the Communities That Made Us
28/10/26 13:00 Speaker: Dr Sylvia Smith

Through a blend of social history and personal storytelling, Sylvia reflects on the communities, experiences and heritage that have shaped identity and belonging.

Dedicated to her late mother, this powerful presentation celebrates the contributions of Black communities and supports the region's commitment to anti-racist practice.
Click Here to Book tickets