



## Governance and funding

### Fandeme (NDE Family)



Fandeme is an African community group from the same village in West Cameroon, set up in 2016. Now based in North Manchester, we aim to support and help our members adjust to life in the UK, whilst also celebrating our culture so that they feel part of a family. We teach our children and future generations about Cameroon life, including language, culture, traditional dance, music so they can “have a taste of Africa without going to Africa” whilst also learning about their parents’ and grandparents’ heritage.

Due to the COVID pandemic, members of Fandeme were struggling financially; some were placed on furlough, whilst others lost their job and had to rely on benefits. Other members were seeking asylum, waiting for documentation to be approved without access to financial support and relying on vouchers or food banks.

Following a rejection from GMCVO BAME grants scheme, we were referred to Macc as our entirely volunteer-led group struggled with capacity and access to the required technology to complete the application correctly.

Millie helped us to understand the errors we had made on our initial funding application, and advised us on the correct constitution, supplying a template translated into English to show what information was needed. She then provided bid writing support and helped us to submit an application to the We Love MCR emergency grants fund, in which we successfully received £2,655 as well as links to appropriate hardship funds for individuals.



We were also given contacts and locations for local food banks, contact details for another Cameroonian group for advice; Ensemble, as well as a link to a Facebook page for the nearest Mutual Aid group.

As a result of our contact with Macc, we are now better informed about opportunities to local services and activities, better connected to other VCSE groups – increasing collaborative potential, as well as being able to write a strong coherent funding application.

In terms of members, our group has now increased to over 100 members and receiving the grant from We Love MCR meant we could afford tablets, laptops and buy a subscription to Zoom to keep in touch and pass on information in French.

Finally, the funding has also allowed us to order culturally appropriate food in order to hold an open-air food distribution event for all our members, with social distancing measures, just in time for Christmas!



“Because of Macc, all our families can now have their own African meal for Christmas”

“Millie is a queen, and helped me from start to finish”

“Thank you so much. We couldn’t have done it without you”

**December 2020**