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## **We've got BAME rapped up!**

Staff at Whitefriars Housing Group are on song to boost awareness of BAME issues, thanks to the help of a group of teenage rap stars.

Managers at the Coventry-based organisation worked with rising local rap act Gridlock to pen tracks dealing with real-life multi-cultural issues faced by its tenants.

The rap songs, written by Gridlock with the help of Whitefriars North managers during a team-building day, have been recorded onto CDs and already distributed to different ethnic groups in the city during a recent cultural day at the housing group's city headquarters.

Now Whitefriars is looking at the possibility of setting up a similar music project on a broader scale where youths city-wide could record their own rap tracks on housing issues ranging from equality and diversity to community safety. It's one of a number of ideas being looked at to engage young people in the work of Whitefriars.

Whitefriars' Black and Minority Ethnic Officer Jody Gordon said: "BAME and equality and diversity are important issues, but not everyone responds to the same type of medium when we're trying to get the message across and create a broader sense of awareness.

“Rapping is an entertaining way of putting forward our commitment as an organisation to our ethnic minority tenants and the wider community as a whole. We also think it would encourage the involvement of young people in housing issues.”

Gridlock rapper Chris Hesson, 16, said: “The Whitefriars staff had the right idea of what to do and they moved pretty well too.

“Not many organisations bother about what young people think, but we are the future so it is important. Teenagers don’t want boring lectures or letters so rap is a good way to get them to listen. I think it is a great idea.”

Here are some of the lyrics penned by the rap artists and Whitefriars staff:

*BAME is the game  
Equality is our aim  
In every area of our city  
You’re judged by the colour of your skin  
And that’s a sin.*

*BAME our population is high  
Even though we live in a sty  
Whitefriars they are starting to care  
Never thought they would dare  
BAME survey was impressive  
We now love Whitefriars  
They are massive!*

*B and M – E!  
That’s the way it should be  
In the Community  
Vibing with the tenancy  
No hassle, no ASB*

*No rent, no property*

*One big family*

*Getting down with the groove – wicked.*

**Ends**

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