Here to Stay

People with Learning Disabilities from Ethnic Minority Communities including New Migrants

Did you know?

... mortality rates among people with moderate to severe learning disabilities are three times higher than in the general population, and

... the prevalence of psychiatric disorders is also significantly higher among adults with learning disabilities, but

... people with learning disabilities from minority ethnic communities face even greater health inequalities

... statistics suggest there could be 120,000 people from minority communities with learning disabilities living in England and more than 70,000 from new migrant communities, but

... these numbers are not mirrored in the uptake of the health and social care services.

The burning questions and how the project is going to answer them

1. What is the current number of people from ethnic minority communities and new migrant communities who require support from learning disability services?

   a) Data collection from health, social care and education services.

2. How the voluntary sector and the wider community can engage with people with learning disabilities from ethnic minorities to promote their wellbeing and improve their life chances?

   a) Focus groups, interviews and surveys with people who provide services for people with learning disabilities about their understanding of the problem.

   b) Interviews with new migrants with learning disabilities and their carers about their journey of using the services.

   c) A consultation process with the stakeholders, service users, services providers, commissioners and policy makers about actions needed to improve their situation.

Emerging issues

The changes in policies and organisational changes in the public sector have an impact on our access to data and collection of data.

There is an improvement in recording ethnicity by the health and social care services, but a lot of data is still missing, which makes managing the inequalities a difficult task.

The anecdotal evidence indicates a hidden problem of new migrants with learning disabilities from ethnic minorities in coping with the new reality and accessing the services.

The project's anticipated outcomes and impact

Improved knowledge base of service commissioners and service providers about the population of people with learning disabilities and their current and future needs.

Improved ways of engaging with the population and promoting services through a national set of guidelines on how to make services visible and available to migrants who may not otherwise know that they are entitled to them.

Promotion of independence, choice and wellbeing within the community.

Improved health and emotional wellbeing of people who need services.

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