Request to the service providers

Here to Stay: people with learning disabilities from new migrant communities

There is a need to increase our knowledge of the numbers and needs of people with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities, particularly new migrants, in England. The *'Here to Stay'* project, which is funded by The Big Lottery, aims to increase this knowledge base. Under this funding stream, researchers from the University of Wolverhampton are working to find out more about the extent of help that is needed to support people with learning disability, effectively. Our focus is to interview people with learning disabilities and their carers. We are therefore asking practitioners who work directly with this patient group to support us by acting on our behalf and inviting their clients and their carers to participate in our study.

Our Request

I am writing to ask for your permission and assistance in contacting and involving people with learning disabilities from new migrant communities and their carers into our study. To protect the prospective participants anonymity, we would like you or your delegated staff to approach service users and their carers on our behalf, provide them with information about the project and recruit them into our study. We attach further information for distribution to service users and their carers.

What do we mean by New Migrants?

New migrants are defined as individuals who are not British citizens but resident permanently or temporarily in England; this includes asylum seekers, refugees, seasonal workers and travellers, from all ethnic groups from within and outside of the European Union.

What do we mean by Learning Disability?

Learning disability includes the presence of:

- a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with;
- a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning);
- which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development. (*Valuing People Now, Department of Health, 2001)*

In order for us to meet our objectives with our research commissioner we would be delighted if you could support us. We will be in touch with you to discuss a possibility of your support further.

Yours sincerely
Professor David Sallah
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