Here to Stay

People with Learning Disabilities from Ethnic Minority Communities including New Migrants

Did you know?

Research evidence shows that while progress is being made, people with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities, including new migrants, remain socially excluded and find it difficult to access advocacy and support.

The **Here to Stay** project is a response to the need to increase our knowledge of the needs of these communities because there is a lack of information about what happens to them and what demands they place upon learning disability services. We believe that better information about them and their needs will result in better service provision.

Barriers faced during research

- Limited access to high quality evidence.
- Lack of continuity of policies, structures and networks of experts at the times of change.
- Apparent lack of awareness of learning disabilities outside learning disability services.
- Service commissioners and providers' lack of understanding of the problems and issues faced by migrants.
- Generally, minority communities are not aware of services and doubt whether they could be helped.
- Research is not a priority in times of high time and money pressures experienced by service providers.

Addressing the burning issues

1. What is the current number of people from ethnic minority and new migrant communities who require support from learning disability services?
   - Data collection from health, social care and education services
2. How can the learning disability, voluntary sector and the wider community engage with the minority communities to promote their well-being and improve their life chances?
   - Focus groups, interviews and survey with people who provide services for people with learning disabilities about their understanding of the problem.
   - Interviews with new migrants with learning disabilities and their family carers about their journey of using services.
   - A consultation process with the research users about actions needed to improve their situation.

Strategies implemented during research

- An inclusive approach – all research users (service users, family carers, service providers, service commissioners, and policy makers).
- Engaging research users throughout the duration of the project.
- Involving research users from the early stages of research.
- Consulting research users on documents produced for comments.
- Introducing a communication plan demonstrating the benefits of being part of the research.

From research to action

- Co-production of the guidelines to increase visibility and accessibility of learning disability services to people from these communities and people from these communities to the commissioners and service providers.
- Dissemination of the guidelines to people engaged into their production.
- Implementation of the guidelines in a geographical area to test effectiveness.
- Developing learning packages to improve care and support.

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