Here to Stay

People with Learning Disabilities from Ethnic Minority Communities including New Migrants

Presented at the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Research Conference

(Tamworth, 27.03.2014)

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.

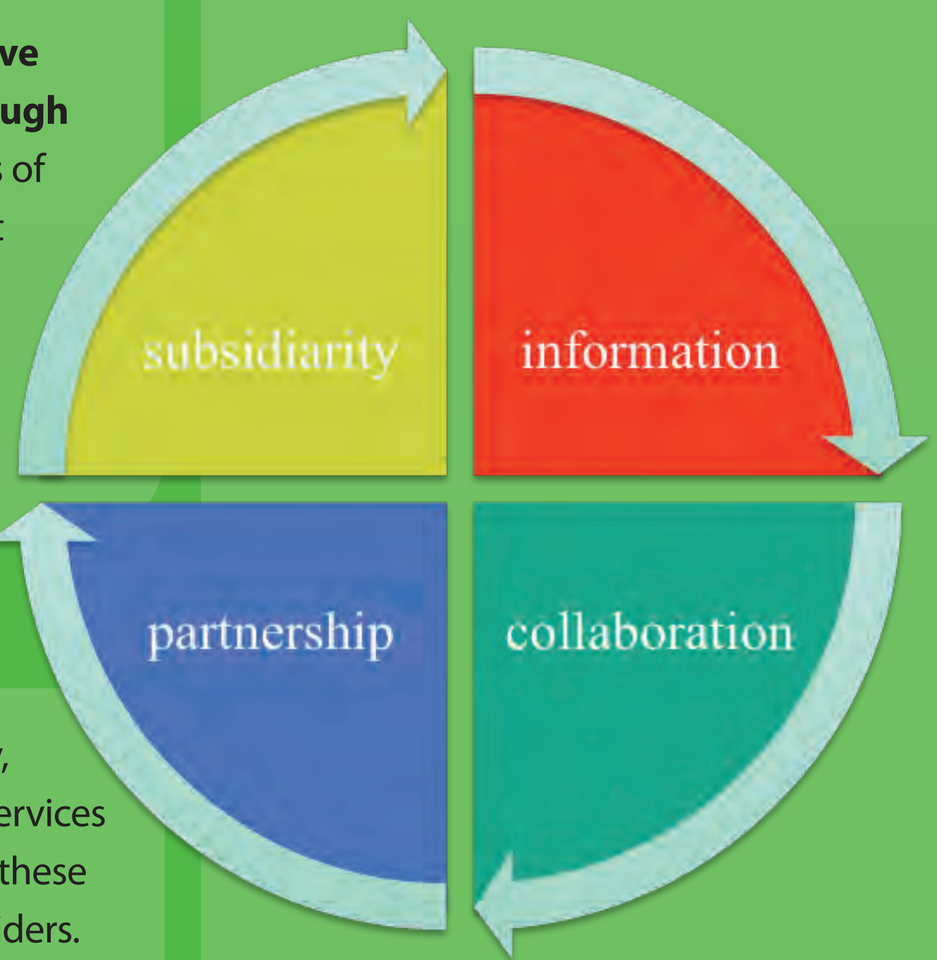
Addressing the burning issues

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.

Some emerging issues

- Limited access to high quality evidence.
- Although there has been an improvement in provision of information about support and services available to people with learning disabilities from migrant communities living in England, **there are people in this population who still do not access the right services**.
- We identified **factors preventing engagement and effective signposting**.
- We found that **services are not always proactive, responsive and integrated enough** to address the needs of people from migrant communities effectively.

Model of engagement and resilience building



There is a need for a model of engagement and signposting where provision of information happens in the system of support recognising collaboration, partnership and subsidiarity of all its partners.

The model promotes:

- Increase in responsiveness of staff in services.
- Building resilience in service users through:
  - information prescription
  - raising awareness in community
  - empowerment.

From research to action

- Production of guidelines on how to increase visibility, accessibility and effectiveness of learning disability services to people from these communities and people from these communities to the commissioners and service providers.
- Implementation of guidelines in a geographical area to test effectiveness (the Black Country).
- Developing learning packages to improve care and support.

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