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"Here to Stay" is a major 5 year research grant awarded to examine the needs of people with learning disabilities from recently arrived migrant communities (New Migrants).

The Big Lottery Fund announced on the 2nd of December 2009 a grant of £478,099 for a learning disability research project for the Association for Real Change (ARC) and the Centre for Health & Social Care Improvement at the School of Health & Wellbeing, University of Wolverhampton.

ARC is the national umbrella charity for community care providers of services to people with learning disabilities. ARC's members provide more than 15,000 residential places nationwide, plus a similar number of day care, educational and training places.

This project aims to answer questions relating to the number of migrants in England who need support from learning disability services. It also seeks to show how the voluntary sector can engage better with migrants who have a learning disability in order to promote well-being and improve their life chances.

This research will lead to the design and implementation of a national set of guidelines, which highlight best practice for providing improved services for migrants with a learning disability. In particular the research will focus on proving answers to the following questions:

- What are the current and projected numbers of people from new communities in England requiring support from learning disability services?
- How can the learning disability, voluntary and community sector engage with New Migrants to promote well-being and improve their life chances?

The term 'New Migrants' is defined as individuals who do not currently hold British Citizenship but who have come to reside either permanently or temporarily in England since 1997. This includes asylum seekers or refugees, seasonal workers, or travellers, from any ethnic group both from within and outside of the European Union.

It is estimated that this research will benefit around 2,000 voluntary/third sector organisations delivering learning disability services and about 70,000 people in the recently arrived migrant communities who have or support someone with a learning disability.

This significant grant presents an important opportunity not only to establish the facts of how many people with learning disabilities there are in recently arrived migrant communities but also to find out how best to help them.

Contact details:

For more information on the methodology and detailed academic research plans contact Professor David Sallah, Dean of the Leicestershire Partnership Trust Academy and Emeritus Professor, Centre for Health & Social Care Improvement at the University of Wolverhampton tel. 0116 255 3673 or Dr Olga Kozlowska (researcher) at Centre for Health and Social Care Improvement, School of Health and Wellbeing, University of Wolverhampton. Deanery Row, off Molineux Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1DT. email: o.kozlowska@wlv.ac.uk, tel. 01902 32 1742, mobile: 07817588300.