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Welcome to the March 2013 LaDDER Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of LaDDER – the Learning Disability, Diversity and Equality Review.

There are ten articles in this review.

We are pleased that this new diversity information service from the Association for Real Change continues to be so well received. Please remember to send in any updates and news for the next edition. Send them to Bridget.fisher@arcuk.org.uk

Please share this newsletter with colleagues and ask them to contact me if they would like to receive LaDDER directly.

Best wishes

Bridget Fisher

1. Policy update

We reported last time on the meeting held at the Department of Health last November to discuss Learning Disability and Minority communities. The recommendations from that meeting were sent to representatives from the Department of Health. Jacqueline Bell and Bridget Fisher from ARC had a follow up meeting at the Department of Health with suggestions to take the work forward.

- [Click here to access the notes from that meeting.](#)

2. 'Here To Stay' project update

In the last LaDDER newsletter we told you about two meetings to review the findings and

guidance from the project so far. Those meetings will be held in September – one in Birmingham and one in London. We are pleased to announce that **Lord Victor Adebowale, Chief Executive of Turning Point** will lead the meetings. The meetings will be by invitation.

We are also pleased to announce that the project research team now has ethical approval from the Social Care Research Ethics Committee to interview family carers and people with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities, especially those people who have arrived in England in the last ten years. It is the first time the Social Care Research Ethics Committee have agreed to interviews being carried out with people without capacity to consent because we have shown how we will support people to contribute to the research. Please let us know of anyone who would like to be involved by sending their details to Bridget: **Bridget.fisher@arcuk.org.uk** or **heretostay@arcuk.org.uk**

We also have an **online questionnaire** for family carers who may prefer completing that to being interviewed. Please share this link.

www.snapsurveys.com/swh/surveypreview.asp?k=136120649909

In order for this research to have value and impact we need to genuinely reflect the opinions of families and people who use services.

- For further information about Here to Stay visit the website: **www.arcuk.org.uk/heretostay**

3. Event news from BILD

BILD is running an exciting event on **22 March, in Oxford**, about relationships, dating, sex and staying safe. They want to share it on as many networks as possible.

Undateable? Not me!

A day of people's stories and practical advice about friendships and relationships; about meeting, dating, spending time together or breaking up; about sex and your right to choose; and about keeping healthy and staying safe, too. There will be some great speakers, great learning cafes, lots of talking and hopefully lots of laughing!

- Find out more on the **[BILD website](#)**

4. Request for help with research from University of Kent

Research project into domestic violence and women with learning disabilities

Dr Michelle McCarthy, a Senior Lecturer and Researcher at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent is undertaking research into domestic violence experienced by women with learning disabilities. By learning more about the experiences of women with learning disabilities, the research aims to improve the support available to them and its accessibility.

The research is about to commence its interview stage and is seeking women with mild/moderate learning disabilities in Kent and South-East London areas who have experienced domestic violence to take part.

Dr McCarthy would really like to hear from:

1. Any organisations in Kent and South-East London (or surrounding areas) that have had contact with women with learning disabilities who have recently experienced domestic violence (up to a maximum of 5 years ago) and who may be able to pass on information about the research project to these women; or
 2. Any individuals or Domestic Violence support organisations anywhere in the UK who might like to share experiences or discuss the project in any way.
- For further information or discussion, please contact **Siobhan Hunt** or **Karen Milne-Skillman** who are assisting Dr McCarthy with this research project.
Telephone: 01227 823116 or email: TizardDomesticViolence@kent.ac.uk

5. Getting involved in health and social care development and delivery

As **Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)** become established it is important that the views of patients and carers are fully represented. This was highlighted at the meeting at the Department of Health mentioned in Article 1 above.

Ghazala Ahmad, a delegate at that event, has sent to LaDDER some useful information to help people become aware of CCG governance and to have a better understanding of how they will work. Please share this information widely so people from diverse groups can contribute to health service development.

- [Development of CCGs](#) – application with criteria of six domains.
- [Engagement with patients, carers and communities](#) – this is the domain that gives the criteria which the CCG has to fulfil.
- [Smart Guides](#) – these guides are very clear in what is expected of the CCGs.

6. National Family Carer Network is updating the BME Resource Guide 2013

The prevalence of learning disability is three times higher than average in South Asian populations compared to the rest of the population, and is also significantly higher in the African Caribbean community (*Amzi et al, 2006*). Yet, in a case study of learning disability service users in an English county local authority area, undertaken by **INLOGOV** in 2012, just 0.2% of clients were recorded as from South Asian backgrounds, and that 0.05% of the Black Caribbean group are service users.

'**Reaching and Supporting Diverse Communities**' is a resource guide to meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities and family carers, from newly arrived Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities.

Currently hosted by **Hft**, the **National Family Carer Network** is now updating the **Resource Guide** for 2013.

If you are currently working with BME communities, or have any examples of good practice or information resources, the National Family Carer Network would be grateful if you would let them know about your services by completing the **BME Resource Guide** form and returning it to info@familycarers.org.uk. This updated resource guide will be widely disseminated through their networks.

- If you have any queries or would like further information please contact info@familycarers.org.uk or tel: 07747 460727

7. Time for REAL ACTION at the House of Commons with BME parents and carers of disabled children

Include Me TOO is a national BME led charity supporting disabled children and young people and their families from Black and Ethnic Minority Families and marginalised communities backgrounds, whilst promoting and supporting ALL disabled children and young people's rights. Over the years Include Me TOO have highlighted many concerns and issues in regards to the widening gap of inequalities faced by BME disabled children, young people and their families.

Last year a landmark event took place at the House of Commons, with BME parents and carers of disabled children and young people from across different regions attending Include Me TOO's (IM2) launch of their report, **Time for REAL ACTION**.

Time for REAL ACTION addresses the needs of BME disabled children, young people and their families. Many community and faith representatives attended the event alongside voluntary and statutory organisations who pledged their support.

The briefing paper references over forty studies and research papers over a timespan of 15 years, highlighting very little has changed. Additionally, IM2 consulted with organisations and groups supporting BME disabled children and families, and consulted directly with families, to identify key themes that were emerging and were still being experienced by them today.

- Poor access to information, advice and services.
- Inappropriate service provision which is not always culturally appropriate or holistic in meeting the needs of BME disabled children, young people and their families.
- Lack of parents/carers knowledge of their rights and entitlements to support the development and needs of their disabled child(ren) and families.
- Under representation of BME parents and carers in process and structures of participation and representation to influence decisions.

The briefing paper captures key issues that, if not addressed, will widen the gap of inequalities faced by BME disabled children, young people and their families.

- To get in touch or if you wish to find out how you can support Include Me TOO's work

contact **01902 711604** or email im2@includemetoo.org.uk

8. Inspirational success stories for young people with disabilities

Following the successes of Britain's Paralympians and Olympians, **Include Me TOO** is collecting success stories of disabled children and young people. We want to celebrate their successes.

Include me TOO are encouraging young disabled people to **inspire others and share their stories**. Many disabled people have told us they want disabled role models, who can share with them their aspirations, achievements and what helped and motivated them. These can range from participation in sports and the arts, academic, educational attainment, community and voluntary work, employment and travel. *Include Me TOO* wants to share stories of people working hard to achieve their goals and dreams.

Get in touch with Include Me TOO if you would like further information forwarding to you. They want you to help them do this by encouraging and supporting disabled children and young people to share with them their inspirational story and become an Include Me TOO Role Model. The stories will be shared on Include Me TOO's Website Young People Section. The aim is to provide positive messages and inspiration.

- Please do get in touch for more information on **01902 711604** or email im2@includemetoo.org.uk.

9. Highlighting Flexible Support Options

Flexible Support Options are based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and provide services across the country to children, young people and adults who have:

Learning Disabilities • Physical Disabilities • Forensic History • Complex Care Needs • Mental Health Support Needs

They provide: Supported living • Day opportunities • Home care • Short breaks • Nursing care • Residential Care

Culturally responsive services

Flexible Support Options is dedicated to providing diverse services which are able to meet each person's specific needs and preferences.

They have a team of multilingual staff which enables them to match up the individual's cultural, social and religious needs, hence providing the care and support they require to live a full independent life.

Flexible Support Options are able to provide services from as little as 2 hours to 24 hours, 365 days a year.

- For any enquiries around specialist services contact:

Dr Pummi Mattu, Head of Special Projects
Tel: 0776 9690327

10. Personalisation and Equalities: Making personalisation and personal budgets work for diverse people, their families, and communities

This is a Roundtable/Learning Event jointly hosted by **Disability Rights UK, National LGB&T Partnership, Race Equality Foundation** and the **Department of Health**.

Date: **28 March 2013**

Time: **11am - 4pm** (registration 10.30am)

Location: **Training Suite, Race Equality Foundation, Deane House Studios, Greenwood Place, Kentish Town, London NW5 1LB**

Personalisation means ensuring that individuals are at the centre of the process of identifying their needs and making choices about how and when they are supported to live their lives. (SCIE Briefing on Equality and Personalisation, April 2011)

The objectives of this learning event are:

- To understand and explore the different experiences of personalisation from a range of communities that have experienced discrimination or disadvantage such as LGB&T disabled people.
- To highlight how individuals across a range of communities such as black and minority ethnic older people can utilise personalisation to achieve better outcomes.
- To identify best practice in supporting all people, such as disabled men and women, in accessing social care and ensuring personalisation.
- To help build a platform for mutual exchange between organisations who provide and are working to ensure personalisation of all services and the better use of personal budgets.

Event/Roundtable Format

The event will bring together speakers, delegates and organisations from across the protected characteristics. Facilitated break-out groups will discuss more detailed questions around access to, and experience of, care and support for a range of communities. All organisations who participate will have an opportunity to explore how access to all communities can be improved. There will also be an opportunity to network and explore partnership working.

This event is free and lunch and refreshments will be provided to all participants

- Places are limited. Please contact Farah@racefound.org.uk or call **0207 428 1880** for further information.

www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/training/events/personalisation-and-equalities

We hope that you have found LaDDER useful and informative

**If you have any information to share for the next edition please send it to
Bridget: Bridget.fisher@arcuk.org.uk**

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Association for Real Change
ARC House
Marsden Street
Chesterfield
S40 1JY
Tel 01246 555043
UK Company No. 01658354