

Progress Report of Devon BME/DV Working Group: June 2009

The working group was set up as a direct outcome of the BME/Domestic Violence Conference held in Okehampton in April 2008. The group was given a remit to develop and move forward an action plan based on the issues identified, and recommendations made, at the conference.

Participation

Meetings have been well attended by representatives from a wide range of organisations but the group has rarely looked the same, which has sometimes made continuity of progress difficult to achieve. Progress with actions has been dependent on the goodwill of individuals and organisations willing to donate their time and energy. This has contributed to uneven progress with a great deal being achieved in some areas and comparatively little in others.

Progress on actions

The Action Plan below is divided into two sections: (A) which relates to the actions identified at the original conference in 2008 (B) Other initiatives developed through group

ACTION PLAN

	Objective	Actions	Progress update
A. Objectives emerging from original conference			
1	Establish ongoing dialogue among relevant agencies and groups	Initial Conference	Completed April 08
		Circulate conference report and draft action plan	Completed May 08
		Establish Action and Advisory Group	BME DVA action group formed in June 08
		Follow up conference	Follow up conference re-scheduled until after the publication of the research report- October/Nov 09

2	Promote more effective information sharing	Produce and distribute BME service directory for Devon	Devon BME Service Directory printed Jan 2009 by Safer Devon Partnership. Initial distribution completed; further distribution ongoing. Requests for copies should be sent to dave.wright@devon.gov.uk Online version available at
		Distribute Adva service directory among BME communities	Copies distributed through action group. Unclear how widely these have been circulated. Requests for Adva directories should be made to janice.healey@devon.gov.uk
		Update Adva directory with BME section	Group developed guidance leaflet aimed at BME victims of DVA, front-line workers in refuges. The guidance leaflet contains info about local support services, immigration and status and domestic violence, relevant legislation, NRPF and further specialist support and guidance. Updated version to be distributed for feedback by 31 st July 2009 & translated into 5 key languages
3	Set up relevant training	Identify potential trainees, trainers, suitable courses and dates	ADVA trainers were identified to deliver training alongside a BME Community Development Worker from the PCT. The ADVA Level 1 course was adapted to increase relevance to BME front-line workers.
		Run 2 training courses in DVA with BME community groups	One training session has been piloted and there will be another one to follow.
		Review and if necessary update Racial Equality and Cultural Sensitivity component of training modules	An initial review has taken place. Feedback from first pilot positive but (a) requires greater emphasis on adapted BME context components (b) better targeting of participants necessary. Recommendations to be acted upon in the planning and delivery of the second training session.
		Develop and deliver BME/Cultural Awareness training for DV practitioners (Adva, WA workers, police, etc)	Piecemeal progress so far but funding (£4800) secured in June 2009 to develop and deliver awareness training workshops across Devon before March 31 st 2010.
4	Secure funding for BME specialist coordinator and/or support worker/s	Work up job description/s	Awaiting availability of funding to create post
		Identify potential funding streams	Funding application for appointment of specialist BME advisors for Plymouth and Devon (joint application by PDREC & DREC).
		Make relevant appointment/s	Funding dependent

5	Improve flexibility and accessibility of services	Conduct small scale research project at BME community level	<p>The main focus of the research is on domestic violence service provision for BME women, using quantitative and qualitative (interview) data. Two questionnaires were developed, one for the frontline workers and one for the service users, available in Arabic, Bengali, Farsi, Mandarin, and Polish. Additional translations are available on request. The main aims of the questionnaire are to establish a) whether any help/support has been offered to BME survivors from any of the agencies which work in this field, b) the reasons for not having received any support and c) BME women's overall satisfaction with the services. The questionnaires were distributed on 22nd June and are expected to be returned by 15th July. The questionnaires will be followed up by interviews with the survivors for a more thorough understanding of the issues.</p> <p>The results of this research are anticipated to inform and improve domestic violence service provision and the mental and physical health of BME survivors of domestic violence.</p>
		Critically review protocols	
6	Improve available language support	Support development of Devon based Community Interpreting agency	Devon Community Interpreting Service – Multilingua - has been funded for 1 year (until 1 Dec 09) by DCC. This might be renewed on a yearly basis.
		Review and advise on translation of information leaflets	<p>Generic ADVA leaflets have now been translated into 5 languages through Multilingua. Farsi, Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Arabic</p> <p>The questionnaires for the research project have been translated into 5 key languages. Farsi, Polish, Bengali, Arabic, Mandarin</p>
		Set up training on DVA for community interpreters	3 of the interpreters have already done the training- Polish, Turkish and Bengali speaker
B. Additional objectives emerging from issues raised by/through BME/DVA group			

7	Improve support for victims with no recourse to public funds	Identify funding sources for victims with NRPF	A small emergency pot of funding has developed to provide emergency assistance to such as food and shelter to victims of DVA with NRPF. Funds have been donated by Adva, by the Prejudice and Hate Crime Prevention task group and through a fundraising event organised by Devon United Women. The fund is held by Exeter Women's Aid. Guidelines and application forms are available from maja.lelandais@nhs.net So far in 2009, 5 BME victims in Devon have been supported through the fund.
		Raise awareness of NRPF issue and lobby for change	The group has made representations to all MP's in Devon about NRPF.
8	Establish clear evidence base for work	Collect evidence to support sustainability of work	The group has been collating anonymous case studies relating to any gaps in service provision for BME communities. These will be fed into research (see 5)

Evidencing:

The group also collate anonymous case studies relating to any gaps in service provision for BME communities

