

Prevalence of Psychosis and access to mental health services for the BME Community in Southwark

Terms of Reference

There is substantial research that shows that in the UK rates of mental illness including psychosis in some ethnic minority populations are higher than rates in white British populations although the levels are not consistent and are different for men and women.

Nationally the APMS survey (ONS, 2007) found that about 65% of people with psychosis and 85% of people with probable psychosis living in private households were on treatment. One third of people with psychoses had contact with their GP in the past 2 weeks, and two thirds had had contact in the past year.

It is suggested that ethnic minorities have relatively good access to primary care for their SMI although this information does not tell us anything about quality or experience. There are some marked differences between the proportion of the population with SMI and the ethnicity of SLaM patients.

Biological, psychological, and environmental (social, family, economic etc) factors all contribute to the development and progression of mental wellbeing and mental disorders. Data shows that black groups, people of mixed white and black heritage, white Irish and Asian groups have a higher prevalence of severe mental illness than other groups. It suggests that despite the rising population new diagnoses of SMI are remaining relatively stable but the incidence rate in men of black or mixed heritage is higher than the average. The incidence rate in Asian women may also be higher than the average although this is based on small numbers

The Health and Adult Social Care Committee wishes to examine the reasons behind a difference in mental health prevalence in the BME community, as well as looking at current routes to accessing support services and the ways in which these need to be improved to benefit those affected. The inquiry will cover the following issues:

1. The likely prevalence of Psychosis in the BME community in Southwark
2. The reasons behind the prevalence of Psychosis amongst the BME community
3. The current ways in which mental health services are accessed by the BME community, and associated problems and/ or best practice
4. The accessibility and quality of community care
5. The ways in which mental health services currently interact with each other throughout Southwark.

The aim will be for the committee to understand the reasons behind the prevalence of mental health disorders amongst the BME community, suggesting some reasons and possible steps to help mitigate prevalence. It will also consider the current provision of mental health services and make recommendation as to how these can be improved.

Calls for Evidence

SLaM

Cooltan Arts , Dragon Cafe and other voluntary/community mental health groups

BME community groups

Black majority churches / faith groups

Academic papers

Service users (can we work through SLAM and Cooltan Arts and other groups to survey their patients/the people delivering the services)

Public Health Department

CCG

Healthwatch

Health & Wellbeing Board

Methodology

Verbal and written evidence

Outreach visits to get the input of people using mental health services.

Possible stakeholder event using Appreciative Inquiry approach (this emphasises what is working well and aims to build on this, encourages stakeholders to create a shared vision, and uses stories to gather information).