

Cllr Rebecca Lury  
Chair, Health, Adult Social  
Care, Communities &  
Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-  
Committee  
160 Tooley Street  
London

**Scrutiny Team**  
**Direct dial: 020 7525 0514**

20 September 2013

Dear Sir / Madam

**Prevalence of Psychosis and access to mental health services for the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities in Southwark: Call for Evidence**

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.

We want the best health outcomes for Southwark people including mental health and wellbeing. The 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.

We would like your views.

**The review**

The scrutiny committee is made up of locally elected councillors and one of its roles is to undertake reviews and then make recommendations to the Cabinet, who run Southwark Council. 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.

**Scrutiny team**, Southwark Council, Communities, law and governance, PO BOX 64529, SE1P 5LX

**Switchboard:** 020 7525 5000 **Website:** [www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk)

**Chief executive:** Eleanor Kelly

## **How to give evidence**

There are a number of ways you can give evidence. Your organisation is invited to send in written evidence by 25 November 2013. You are also invited to give evidence in person at our next meeting, which will be held on 15 October 2013 7pm at 160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH. Please book a place on the contact details below. We can arrange transport if you need it, pay for care expenses and help with any access needs. Alternatively a member of the committee could come and visit your organisation and hear from your members/ service users directly.

## **How scrutiny will hold the review and make recommendations.**

The committee will consider lots of evidence from different people in the community who might be affected by psychosis, particularly the BME community, people who have a professional responsibility for delivering mental health and psychosis services, as well as voluntary groups working with people experiencing mental distress. We have already asked Public Health and SLaM to give evidence.

If you give evidence we will make a note of this and then publish it, but we will not use your name unless you want us too. Once we have gathered all the evidence a report will be written. We will then send it to decision makers, such as the Cabinet, who run Southwark Council, and the local health services. We will also send you a copy if you give us your address.

## **Further information**

If you have any queries or access issues, please contact scrutiny project manager Julie Timbrell on 0207 525 0514 or [julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Cllr Rebecca Lury  
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