



North West



Specialised Commissioning Team

Commissioning Appropriate & Responsive Services for BME offenders – Steve Brook Secure Commissioner Greater Manchester

**In 2007 NHS North West Secure Commissioning Team commissioned a research project in partnership with CSIp North West AND North West Offender Health Team.**

**Why- Concerns about high numbers of BME Offenders in Secure Services e.g High Secure 28% and whether services were responsive**

**Update on progress since 2007**

Purpose of the research

**Review Mental health needs of BME offenders in community, prison and secure setting.**

**This research was relevant to national 5 year Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health programme started by Department of Health 2005 – 2010**

## Method of Research

### **Three community organisations commissioned to carry out survey**

POPS

Pakistani Resource Centre

African Caribbean Mental Health Services

A single questionnaire was developed used by all organisations.

Data collected by 1-1 interviews.

Each organisation interviewed 30 people

90 in total

## Method of Research (Continued)

Prisons: Interviews completed by POPS

Secure Health Settings: Interviews completed by African Caribbean Mental Health Service.

Community: Interviews completed by Pakistani Resource Centre.

## Key Recommendations -Prisons

Information on Health Services given to prisoners both at induction and post induction and should be BME specific where appropriate

Training for Prison Staff and Prison Health Care staff in relation to Cultural Issues – incorporating issues around health and emotional well being

Access to BME prisoner support groups and/or networks within the prison setting  
Access for BME prisoners to Health and Emotional Well Being courses that incorporate stress management techniques including specific BME issues

BME mentors on each wing within the prison setting who are trained in issues of emotional well being  
Review of Visiting process and Visitor experience for BME families utilising the views of both BME prisoners and visitors

Increased support for Prisoner on release regarding resettlement with BME specific information and literature

## Key Recommendations –Secure Mental Health Units

More dialogue between service providers and service users

Education in cultural awareness and sensitivity

Need for preventative services  
of culturally sensitive and holistic counselling

Need for more professionals from BME communities to work in secure units

Involve and support families/dependants of service users

Appropriate work and training opportunities available and accessible to ex-offenders with mental health problems

## Key Recommendations Community

- . More culturally appropriate services available that benefit individual communities, e.g. south Asian counsellors.

  - Counselling

  - Support groups

  - Befriending

  - Gender specific activities

The faith leaders to receive training on mental health issues as they are a key contact for service users.

## Response to the research

2009 Recruitment of Greater Manchester Race Equality  
Lead to take care of BME offender mental health agenda.

Supported by NHS North West secured commissioning and  
North West Offender Health Team

Steering Group set up

Reference Group in Place and links made with other work  
and workers