

# Report

10

Report to:	<b>Social Work Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>23 January 2008</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Social Work Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Research findings - Identifying the care needs that exist within minority ethnic communities living in Lanarkshire</b>
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## 1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise Committee of the research undertaken in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire to identify the care needs that exist within ethnic minority communities.

## 2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that research undertaken in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire to identify the care needs that exist within ethnic minority communities be noted

## 3 Background

- 3.1 The council has a legislative responsibility to meet the general duties outlined in the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. In addition SWIA recommended that Social Work Resources should introduce measures to improve ethnic monitoring of people who use services. Equal opportunities is also a core component of best value.
- 3.2 In order to meet legislative requirements outlined above it is important that there is an understanding of local communities current and anticipated future needs. The research has assisted the council and partners to develop this understanding that in turn will inform and support service planning and the development of sensitive and culturally competent services.
- 3.3 The research was overseen by a reference group, which included members of the minority ethnic community groups. The group agreed the terms of reference for the research which was conducted by ODS Consulting. The research with community groups was undertaken over the June to August 2007 period.

## **4 Research**

- 4.1 The aim of the research was to identify the care needs, both formal and informal, of vulnerable people from minority ethnic communities. The scope of the research was with the Pakistani, Chinese and Indian communities living in Lanarkshire.
- 4.2 The objectives of the research were to:
- Examine the care needs of older residents, the extent to which these needs were currently being met, and to identify and quantify any unmet care needs.
  - Examine the care needs of adults with a physical disability and/or a learning difficulty, the extent to which these needs are currently being met, and to identify and quantify any unmet care needs.
  - Examine the support needs of carers and family members, the extent to which these needs are currently being met and to identify and quantify any unmet support needs.
  - Identify whether there are real or perceived religious, cultural or language barriers to the uptake of services and whether lack of knowledge of available services effectively acts as a barrier to the take up and delivery of services.
- 4.3 Over the course of the research ODS Consulting completed 7 focus groups (which involved 96 individuals), and separate discussions with representative organisations, including health and social work and 7 community groups.
- 4.4 The research report was launched at an event held on 19 November 2007 and has generally been welcomed by the communities. The report will be helpful for partners in identifying some of the barriers which people from minority ethnic communities face when accessing services.
- 4.5 The report identifies 14 key recommendations for partners which are broadly in 4 main areas:
- Promoting awareness of services
  - Ensuring the provision of culturally sensitive services
  - Blending mainstream provision with community provision
  - Improving how information on ethnicity is gathered and used
- 4.6 Work has commenced within Social Work to consider the report recommendations and develop an action plan to implement the key findings. The proposed actions will be in proportion to the issues identified. The work is progressing in the following services:

Harry Heaney Day Care Centre for older people in Spittal, Rutherglen, was the first South Lanarkshire Council centre to offer integrated services to service users from minority ethnic communities. This service continues to work with individuals to ensure the delivery of culturally sensitive services.

The Milan Lunch Club expanded in 2007 and now meets 2 days each week to address the needs of older people from ethnic minority communities. The members are actively involved in the development of the lunch club, which has seen visits to the integrated day facilities in Harry Heaney Day Centre and the involvement of home care to support the lunch club. There has also been an improvement in the number of community care assessments.

The Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre has an established women's carer support group, which meets on a weekly basis for ethnic minority communities.

## **5 Employee Implications**

- 5.1 At this stage there are no employee implications arising from the report, however these may become apparent as progress is made towards meeting the recommendations set out in the report.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 At this stage there are no financial implications arising from the report, however these may become apparent as progress is made towards meeting the recommendations set out in the report.

## **7 Other Implications**

- 7.1 The report contains recommendations that will be relevant for the Council to consider and this has been shared.

## **8 Consultation**

- 8.1 Ethnic minority community groups were involved throughout and will continue to assist partners to oversee the implementation of the report recommendations.

**Harry Stevenson**  
**Executive Director (Social Work Resources)**

5 December 2007

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- Develop services for older people
- Improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Improve health and increase physical activity

### **Previous References**

None

### **List of Background Papers**

ODS Consulting final report and executive summary

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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