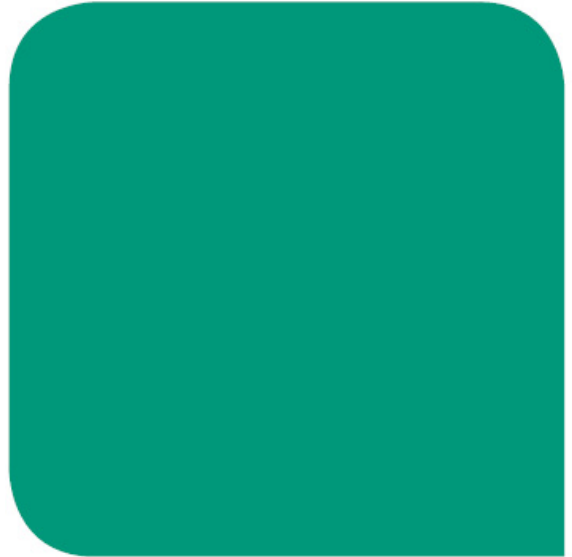


Doing it for themselves: Participation and black and minority ethnic service users



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Doing it for themselves: an Easy Read guide

This report is written by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE).

SCIE gives social care workers information so that they can help you to live a better life.



This report is about people who are from **black and minority ethnic groups**.



Black and minority ethnic groups means people from different countries.



Black and minority ethnic groups means people from different cultures.



This group of people are called **BME**.



What we have found out

More people are using services than before.



BME groups are not using as many services as other groups.



Professional people talk to the leaders of BME community groups about services.



They do not talk to the people in the BME groups.



BME groups do not know what services are in their area.



Social workers need to support BME groups to take part in services.



Taking part

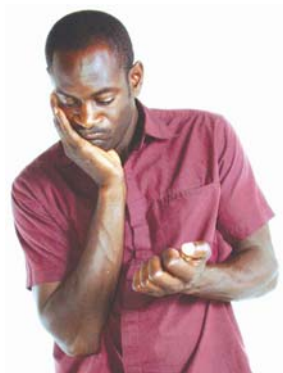
The government says that people who use services are important.



These people help the government plan for the future and make things better.



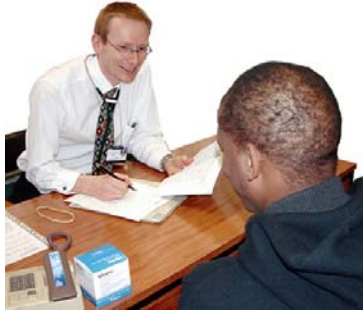
It is important that BME groups take part.



There are lots of reasons why BME groups are not taking part.



BME groups can find it hard getting to and using services.



It is important for BME groups to take part in services



BME groups can help to make the services work best for them.



BME groups can find it hard to take part in services.

BME groups can be scared to take part.



BME groups might not trust the services.

This can be because they think that the services will not understand them.



BME groups can think they owe something to service providers.



The professionals need to think about how to get BME groups to take part.



It is important to let the BME groups know that the professionals want to listen to them.



Other people who use service need to make BME groups feel welcome.



Social workers have an important job.



They need to help people to take part.



It is important that BME groups take part because they have to be included.



It helps people become a part of their community.



BME groups can take part and it can work well.



Success stories

Tasibee is a project that works with Pakistani Muslim women with mental health problems.



Tasibee holds support meetings with the women.



This helps them to be more assertive and confident.



Service Plus is run by the International Somali Community Trust.



It provides services to Somali disabled people.

Many of these people are refugees or asylum seekers.



A group was set up to let people say what they think.



Service Plus does advocacy work with people.



Issues can be then raised at the group meeting.



Conclusion

To make sure that the services are good, professionals need to speak to the BME groups.



The BME groups will need support to make sure they can take part.

Find out more

To find out more or to get hold of the big version of this report, please get in touch with



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