



Learning Difficulties and Ethnicity: Updating a Framework for Action

Accessible Summary



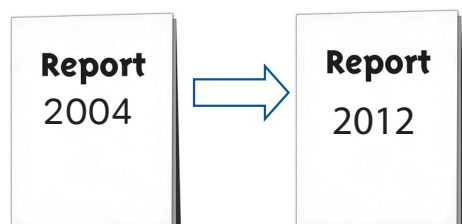
Who are we?

We are the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities.



What have we been asked to do?

In 2004, the Department of Health commissioned a report called Learning Difficulties and Ethnicity: a Framework for Action. This looked at how people with learning difficulties from black and minority ethnic groups (BME) are helped by services run by the Government.



We were asked to look at what has changed since the 2004 report and write an updated Equalities Framework for 2012.



Who asked us to do this?

The Department of Health (DoH) and the Office of National Learning Disabilities Directors Anne Williams and Scott Watkins (co-directors until March 2011) paid us to do this work.



Why have we done this?

A report called Valuing People was written by the DoH in 2009.

Valuing People said that people with learning difficulties and their families from BME communities are not getting the support they need from services such as health and social care.



Valuing People said that this was wrong and that this needs to change.



To help people with learning difficulties from BME communities, we need to know more about them and what their needs are.

We also wanted to find out how services were not helping people from BME communities.



What is the Equalities Framework?

The Framework is like a set of tools for people who work in services like adult social care.

It can help services see how they can make their services better for people with learning difficulties from BME communities.



This means thinking about differences in peoples cultures and making sure everyone is included.



What are the important messages?
This updated report shows that since 2004 not much has changed, people with learning difficulties from BME communities still need more support.



Below we have put some of the problems with services at the moment.

Then we have put what needs to change to make things better.



1. Numbers of people with learning difficulties from BME communities

Problem? We still need to know more about:
- How many people from different BME communities have learning disabilities and where they live?

- How many people with learning disabilities from BME communities are already being helped by services such as social services?



How to make things better?

Local Authorities need to do research to find out how many people with learning difficulties from BME communities live in their area.



2. Health

Problem?

GPs and health workers do not know how to help people from BME communities.



How to make things better?

GPs and health workers need to know more about the needs of people from BME communities and how they can help them.



3. Employment

Problem?

People with learning difficulties are generally less likely to find paid employment.



People from BME communities are also less likely to find paid work than white people.



This means people who have a learning difficulty AND who are from BME communities are much less likely to find paid work (this is called double discrimination).



How to make things better?

There needs to be more support for people from BME communities who have a learning difficulty to find work.



4. Housing

Problem?

The housing needs of people with learning difficulties from BME communities are not being met.

Often people with learning difficulties end up living with their families for longer than they would like.



How to make things better?

Each person is different and should be asked where and how they would like to live.



5. Being part of the community

Problem?

For many people from BME communities being part of the community is very important.

It's also important to think about what a person may want for themselves. Someone's community may be very important to them but services don't always understand this.



How to make things better?

Services should think about the needs of families AND their community.



What's next?

We have made a checklist for Local Authorities and Learning Disability Partnership Boards. This is to help them find out about the numbers of people with learning difficulties from BME communities in their area.



We want to help them see how they can make their services better.

We hope that this updated Framework will help tell people about these important issues.

Learning Disabilities and Ethnicity:
Updating a Framework
for Action



This is a summary of the 'Learning Difficulties and Ethnicity: Updating a Framework for Action'.

To access the full report and the 'Checklist For Action' please visit:
www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/publications



**foundation for
people with
learning disabilities**



**Department
of Health**