

Lifting the Lid

Your views on health & wellbeing issues faced by people in BME communities in Lancashire

November 2015



Introduction

On 26th November 2015, Healthwatch Lancashire supported Lancashire BME Network and East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver “Lifting the Lid”, a public event which focused on the health and wellbeing issues faced by BME communities in Lancashire.

47 people attended the event which discussed topics including mental health, culture and diversity, genetics and reproductive health within BME communities in Lancashire and lifted the lid for further discussions.

This report summarises the views and opinions of those who attended the event.

Event programme:

Naz Zaman, Chief Officer for Lancashire BME Network, & Rafique Malik, Chair of Lancashire BME Network
Introduction from Lancashire BME Network

Mike Wedgeworth - Chair of Healthwatch Lancashire
Introduction to Healthwatch Lancashire

Michelle Pilling - Lay Advisor Quality and Patient Involvement (Deputy Chair) at East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group
Introduction to ‘Lifting the Lid’

Jules Wall - Diversity in Lancashire

Wahida Pervaiz and Anne Edington from East Lancashire Genetics Outreach programme
Genetics, Consanguinity in the South Asian Community

Sue Capstick - Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust
Reproductive Health in BME Communities

Professor Rasjid Skinner - Consultant Clinical Psychologist
Mental Health & Black Magic (Jinn)



Pictured above: Mike Wedgeworth, Chair of Healthwatch Lancashire



Pictured above: Michelle Pilling, Lay Advisor at East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group



Pictured above: Professor Rasjid Skinner, Consultant Clinical Psychologist

What you said...

1 We asked attendees to share their views and comments about the topics discussed at the event.

Attendees views and comments... (quotes)

“We need to promote greater diversity in the workforce, starting at board level.”

“When planning healthcare we need to consider peoples beliefs too.”

“Cancer and BME communities - user involvement is needed.”

“Carers need more awareness and support.”

“There is a need to educate to raise awareness.”

“Engaging will all communities is important.”

“Better and clearer highlighting to residents.”

“Not enough awareness of mental health in BME communities, not enough resources in mental health for BME communities.”

“No funding for advice centre for provision of services. General public cannot get help and support.”

“Patients with less common cancers don’t appear to be supported as well as those with the more common types.”

“More training is needed for social workers and awareness of generic conditions and illnesses in BME communities.”

In summary...

A number of concerns were raised towards diversity in the workforce, lack of awareness for mental health in BME communities and cuts to funding.

Engagement with BME communities was recognised as being important with people stating that people’s beliefs need to be considered and user involvement is needed in BME communities regarding cancer services.

A number of people raised additional concerns which do not specifically relate to BME communities such as poor access for disabled people for GP services.

People raised concerns about cuts to funding stating this is a “huge concern for already stretched services” and that it is difficult for members of the public to access advice services.

People also said that there is a need to educate and raise awareness of some of the issues raised at the event.

A comment was received about people with less common cancers not being supported sufficiently compared with those with more common types of cancer.

A number of recommendations were expressed about training and information about BME communities being available for social workers.



What you said...

2 We asked attendees what they found most useful about the event and the topics discussed.

What attendees found most useful... (quotes)

“Perceptions of Jinn from Professor Skinners talk.”

“Learning about the genetics in BME communities.”

“Genetics and psychology.”

“The genetics discussion.”

“The presentations were really interesting presentations, we need one now looking at other BME groups.”

“One of the most stimulating events I have attended with huge implications for health and social care.

“Understanding genetics.”

“Varied topics and information available.”

“Genetics, mental health and black magic.”

“Range of subjects was interesting and eye-opening.”

“I found all the topics very informative, I will use this in my professional environment.”

In summary...

A large number of people said that discussions about genetics, mental health and black magic (Jinn) relating to BME communities were most useful.

A recommendation was made that more understanding of different groups is needed.



Pictured: Professor Rasjid Skinner - Consultant Clinical Psychologist, talking about Mental Health & Black Magic (Jinn).

What you said...

3 We asked attendees where they felt more research in Lancashire is needed.

Where attendees felt more research is needed... (quotes)

“Genetic conditions, reproductive health.”

“Mental health and black magic (Jinn) I feel should be part of social work training as referrals do come in involving these issues. Social workers should be given more information on how to deal with this and where to get advice.”

“Research is needed in genetic screening, sexual health and physiology. This seemed to engage BME colleagues today.”

“Understanding genetics and cancer in BME communities is needed.”

“The link between domestic abuse and the subjects discussed would have been useful and informative.”

“It would have been useful to look at the BME youth profile in Lancashire.”

“More research is needed to understand older women executing rights to plan end-of-life care in aging South Asian communities and the impact this has upon their families.”

In summary...

The main themes from where people feel more research in Lancashire is needed were genetic conditions, sexual health in BME communities and in mental health.

In addition to these a recommendation was made to look at the link between the discussion at the event and domestic abuse.

A suggestion was made to look further into the youth profile within BME communities.

A point was raised to research the topic of end-of-life care within aging South Asian communities.



Pictured: Michelle Pilling - Deputy Chair of East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, introducing “Lifting the Lid”.

What you said...

4 General feedback about the event.

General feedback about the event... (quotes)

“Huge thanks to speakers, we need more of these types of seminars.”

“Very good, interesting speakers.”

“Very informative, well organised event with relevant speakers, thought provoking.”

“Professor Skinner was able to tackle the issue with both humour and sensitivity.”

“Worth attending due to Professor Skinner.”

“Really enjoyable and informative event.”

“I found the information interesting, particularly statistics and insight into the issues within BME communities.”

“This event not only lifted the lid but highlighted issues that have not just been accepted but discussed openly.”

In summary...

A number of positive comments were received about the event and the overall feedback was positive.

A considerable amount of positive comments were received towards the discussions on mental health and black magic by Professor Rasjid Skinner.



Pictured: Jules Wall Diversity talking about diversity in Lancashire.

Response to report

This report was shared with East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and Lancashire BME Network who provided the following responses.

Michelle Pilling, Lay Advisor Quality and Patient Involvement (Deputy Chair) at East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, said:

East Lancashire CCG is committed to tackling inequality which can only be done by really understanding the communities we serve. Understanding the specific needs of seldom heard communities is key to getting right the design and delivery of healthcare services. Events like this help to achieve this, by highlighting the specific challenges and cultural differences that seldom heard communities face. These are often the underlying reasons for poor health.

Naz Zaman, Chief Officer for Lancashire BME Network, said:

Lancashire BME Network work to empower BME communities in Lancashire so they can make positive changes to their lives. Lancashire BME Network are committed to tackling health inequalities and do this through developing and delivering interventions that not only raise awareness of some of the BME communities' health concerns but also look to address them.

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