

Challenging racism and health inequalities through strengthening self-advocacy and peer support

Specification for strand 1: Strengthening inclusive self-advocacy

1. Project Background

This is a 9-month project focused on peer support, self-advocacy and community networks led by or open to people with a learning disability and their families from minority ethnic groups.

This NHS England and NHS Improvement funded project is hosted by Learning Disability England in partnership with the Race Equality Foundation. It is part of wider work the Race Equality Foundation is leading on, finding evidence and examples of what will help stop racism or unequal treatment.

The project is made up of three strands of work, each being led by a different group or organisation. The strands are:

1. Strengthening inclusive self-advocacy
2. Strengthening family led or parent peer support
3. Strengthening local community responses on tackling health inequalities and unfair treatment

NHS England and NHS Improvement have commissioned the project because reports¹ have told them that people with a learning disability from minority ethnic groups do not get equal health care. NHS England and NHS Improvement want to help more people know about health services, their rights, and choices and who can help them get fair treatment.

The project aims to

¹ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/university-of-bristol-leder-annual-report/>

- Strengthen existing self-advocacy & parent/carer organisations' work with people with a learning disability from minority ethnic groups and their families.
- Empower and support self-advocacy or family led groups to overcome barriers and taboos in relation to speaking up about racism and its impact on access to preventative healthcare and treatment.
- Increase the confidence of local organisations led by people from minority ethnic groups in working with people with a learning disability and their families as part of their work on tackling health inequalities.
- Link the work being led by people with a learning disability and their families into the wider work aimed at reducing premature mortality and health inequalities.²

2. The delivery partner request

We want an organisation to help us deliver this work, the organisation will need to:

Training and Resources

Coproduce a training and resources package with people with a learning disability and family members aimed at self-advocacy organisations.

This should cover:

- Developing an understanding of what racism is and how to challenge it
- Supporting self-advocacy groups to think about and action plan around what they can do to make it easier for people with a learning disability from minority ethnic groups to join their group
- and make links with local community organisations led by people from minority ethnic groups

² <https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/improving-health/mortality-review/>

This training should be offered and delivered to 15 organisations ensuring there is a good regional spread across in England. Learning Disability England can help share information and recruit groups to participate.

Following the training all participating organisations will be asked to share an action plan for change with others involved in the project and other self-advocacy groups they are connected to regionally to support shared learning. There is some funding to contribute to the costs of participating.

It should be possible to use the resources created independently from the training, allowing them to be shared more widely and used by others.

NHS England as partners in the project will support with information and guidance on the content of the resources or sessions created. The resources created through the project will belong to the partners in the project for further use including the delivery partner, Learning Disability England and NHS England and Improvement. We can share more details with the delivery partners

Sharing Learning

- The training package should include some post-training support including, an opportunity to share action plans with other participating self-advocacy groups
- All delivery partner organisations leading a work strand will be expected to attend 3 online 'learning group' sessions to share work and problem solve together during the project
- Throughout the project we want there to be opportunities for groups and organisations within and between the three strands of work to connect and build a support network or shared resources and tools that can continue independently after the project.

We hope to foster a longer-term support network that will continue after the project has completed. We will encourage self-advocacy groups to meet independently 6 months after the project has completed to share progress and discuss barriers but this is not an expectation for them or the delivery partner.

- There is a coproduction group advising on both this project and the wider work with the Race Equality Foundation. You may also be asked to attend the coproduction group to present updates on your work.
- Learning Disability England will be hosting at least two sessions to promote the projects work and widen its impact. The sessions will be to help commissioners, other disabled people or community led organisations to think about how they can learn from this and change their work. You might be asked to be part of these sessions or to support groups who have taken part in the training to take part.

The 3 delivery partner sessions, co-production meetings and sharing sessions will all be online.

3. Delivery partner Skills and Experience

We are looking to work with organisations that meet the following criteria:

- Have a deep understanding of:
 - the experiences of people with a learning disability and their families from minority ethnic groups,
 - challenging racism,
 - how to create inclusive self-advocacy groups.
- Project work being coproduced, co-delivered and led by community members
- Experience of coproducing and co-delivering training

4. Funding Available

The delivery partner organisation will receive up to £18,000 for their role in delivery all of the strand 1 work including:

- Staff time
- Creation and dissemination of resources

- Design and delivery of training programme
- Participation in learning and coproduction groups

The funding for participating self-advocacy groups is additional to this and will be paid to them directly by Learning Disability England.

5. How to apply

You can apply by filling in this [application form](#)

The application deadline is **Monday 1st November at 5pm**

If you have any questions about the project or the application please email, info@LDEngland.org.uk

6. Decision Making Process

Applications will be considered by a subgroup of the coproduction group for the wider work with Race Equality Foundation and Learning Disability England staff.

In our decision-making process for applications, we will be looking for evidence of the following criteria. The leaders of this strand of work need to:

- Have experience of leading projects like this one
- Be led by people with a learning disability or a partnership where they are equal partners in the work
- Know about the experiences of people with a learning disability from minority ethnic groups
- Know about what helps people get equal treatment or stop racism

Decisions will also be subject to reference.

You can expect to hear back on final decisions by the end of November 2021