

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

Specification for strand 3: Strengthening local community responses on tackling health inequalities and unfair treatment

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 supported the project because reports have told them that people with a learning disability from minority ethnic groups do not get equal health care¹. 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-leader-annual-report/>

- Strengthen existing self-advocacy & parent/carer organisations' work with people from minority ethnic groups with a learning disability 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 learning disabilities and their families into the wider work aimed at reducing premature mortality and health inequalities.²

2. Delivery Partner Opportunity

We will recruit an organisation to work with community groups and organisations across England led by people from minority ethnic groups, who work on tackling health inequalities. We want to help them build understanding of the barriers people with a learning disability and their families face and consider how they can work to remove those. This will include helping local self-advocacy and family groups and community organisations to connect.

Through this strand of the project, we want to support and empower community organisations and groups led by and for people from minority ethnic groups, to think about and include people with a learning disability in their health focused work.

We are taking an open and flexible approach to this strand and inviting organisations to submit creative proposals on how they think it could be best approached.

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.

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

Sharing Learning

- 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 that can continue independently after the project.
- The delivery partner organisations leading a work strand will be asked to attend 3 online 'learning group' sessions to share work and problem solve together.
- There is a coproduction group advising both this project and the wider work with the Race Equality Foundation. You may also be asked to attend the on line 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 on line or to support groups who have taken part in the training to take part.

3. Applicant 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 self-advocates
- Experience of coproducing and co-delivering training

4. Funding Available

The delivery partner organisation will receive up to £9,000 for their role in delivery all of the stand 3 work including:

- Staff time
- Creation and dissemination of resources
- Design and delivery of programme
- Participation in learning and coproduction groups

5. How to apply

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

The application deadline **1st November 2021 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 from minority ethnic groups or a partnership where they are equal partners in the work

- Know about the health inequalities people from minority ethnic communities experience and what works in tackling them
- 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