

FGM Conference

Afrah Qassim
Community Development Worker
Women, Children and Young People
Liverpool PCT

Delivering Race Equality in Liverpool

- Implementation of Delivering Race Equality (DRE) in Mental Health Care
- The DRE is an action plan which provides a structure for tackling race inequalities in provision of mental health services for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities to:
- Access to mental health services
- Experience of mental health services
- Outcomes from mental health services

Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls

'Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.'

Domestic Violence & BME Communities

BUT......

What may be the difference is that violence could be as a form of...

- Forced Marriage
- Honour Based Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Culture/Religions and Beliefs
- Immigration: status is insecure or is depended on husband and feel trapped and unable to seek help
- Domestic violence can happen by extended family members e.g parents, parents-in-laws, brother, cousin

Services for BME Women

- No adequate services (e.g BME Refugees)
- Services not aware of cultural needs
- BME women not aware of services or how to access them
- Fear of accessing services: Due to
- stigma
- Brings shame to the family,
- 3. Don't want the children to be taken away.

FGM in Liverpool

Concerns and Challenges

- Not certain of how big the problem of FGM in Liverpool, as there are no accurate monitoring or evaluation
- Lack of understanding/training of the issue
- What need to be done and how are we going to do them?

What needs to be done?

- Awareness and education within services and communities.
- Develop a local strategy to support services when dealing with FGM cases.
- Partnership Work and involvement with the FGM group
- Service provision for FGM

How are we going to do them?

Awareness and education within services and communities.

- Harmful practice training
- Part of the Ofsted Safeguarding priorities
- Awareness sessions by the FGM group
- Savera will be delivering this as part of its service provision/objectives

Develop local strategy to support services when dealing with FGM cases.

Started the work

Partnership Work and involvement with the FGM group

- Partnership between the FGM group and Merseyside FM & HBV steering group
- Partnership working with Savera, CPS, Police, etc

Further

Services Provision:

Savera Liverpool: Dedicated to tackling domestic abuse within Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) Communities and to the preservation and protection of the mental and physical health of women from these communities who are experiencing, or have experienced, domestic abuse, focusing more on tackling FM, HBV and FGM

We Need more of!!!

- Better communication and partnership across Liverpool services in relation to harmful practice
- Better information of where to go for support and advice
- Better engagement with the community to raise awareness

Thank you

Any Questions

Email: afrah.qassim@liverpoolpct.nhs.uk