

Questions you might be asked about DRE

Q. What is DRE?

A. Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care is the Department of Health's five-year action plan for improving mental health services for Black and Minority Ethnic communities. It is based on three main building blocks: better, more culturally appropriate services; involving BME communities in planning and providing care; and better understanding the issues by using information and evidence. You can read more about DRE at www.actiondre.org.uk

Q. What is a CDW?

A. Community Development Workers (CDWs) are new workers whose job it is to build bridges between local mental health services and the BME communities they serve, and help communities to have more say in the sort of service they get.

Q. How is DRE making a difference?

A. There is a huge amount of work going on to make DRE happen, finding ways that services can improve and sharing them more widely. For example, Community Development Workers were one of the ideas in DRE and there are now hundreds in post. DRE has also helped to raise the profile of the issues higher than ever before.

Q. What happens when DRE comes to an end?

A. Equality in mental health care doesn't have a time limit – services will continue to improve and build on what they learn from DRE.

Q. What is a Focused Implementation Site (FIS)?

A. There are 18 focused implementation sites for DRE – areas where special attention is paid to finding ways of making services better so that the rest of the country can learn from them.

Q. Do people from BME communities suffer more from mental health problems?

A. One in five mental health in-patients comes from a BME background, although BME communities only make up about one in ten of the population as a whole. In addition, research shows that people from BME communities can suffer from inequalities in access to mental health services, in their experience of those services, and in the outcome of those services. For example, BME patients are significantly more likely to be detained compulsorily or diagnosed with schizophrenia. DRE aims to help mental health services provide care that fully meets the needs of BME patients and build stronger links with diverse communities.

Q. How will the programme be measured?

A. Success on the programme will be measured by positive experiences from service users, carers, communities and NHS staff. It will also be measured by the number of people accessing mental health services, and whether those services are reflective of the local population and accessible and appropriate to their needs.

Q. What kind of mental health problems does the programme cover?

A. The programme covers all mental health problems, ranging from anxiety and depression to schizophrenia.

Questions you might be asked about your project

It is worth preparing answers to questions that you might be asked in advance and circulating them within the team. Here are some questions that you might like to consider:

Q. What is your project about?

Q. Who are you targeting?

Q. What are you trying to achieve?

Q. How will it benefit people in the local area?

Q. How long will it last?

Q. Where can I find more information?