

DVD: Welcome to the Family

Athlete Linford Christie provided the English language voice-over for the new DVD *'Welcome to the Family'*, which is available in 10 languages. The DVD is aimed at recruiting BME short break carers and features parents, short break carers and children, from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, explaining the benefits of short breaks to all involved.

"Short breaks provide wonderful opportunities for disabled children", says Linford. "They also give their families a bit of breathing space and the chance to do things that might be impossible with the disabled child. In particular, there's an urgent need for more Black and Asian carers."

The DVD was funded by the Big Lottery and compliments *'A Process for Change'*, Shared Care Network's good practice guide on providing quality services to Black and minority ethnic families.

The recent Shared Care Network UK survey of short breaks shows that the percentage of disabled children from Black and minority ethnic families receiving services has risen to 16.4% in 2006 compared to 9% in 1993 and 12.5% in 1999. This is a move in the right direction but it was also revealed that schemes still struggle to recruit BME carers who can offer culturally appropriate breaks for these children.

Michelle Walker, who produced the DVD said *"My aim was to make the DVD really inspirational. I hope people find the film very informative and that it motivates viewers from the BME community to come forward as short break carers."*

Order forms for the DVD and details of other Shared Care Network Publications are available on Shared Care Network's website: www.sharedcarenetwork.org.uk.

Copies can also be obtained by telephoning York Publishing Services Ltd: 01904 431 313

(Welcome to the Family - £25 inc pp / A Process of Change - £35 inc pp)