

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

East Midlands Learning Disability & Race Equality Network

This network held three meetings in 2007 in Leicester and Derby, the next will take place on 14 January 2007 and then quarterly in 2008/09. The group has so far concentrated on what is working well, and why, in different parts of the region in meeting the needs and aspirations of people with learning disabilities from minority ethnic groups. It is also working up a regional action plan based on national and local priorities for people with learning disabilities and families from minority ethnic groups.

An important theme emerging has been the significance of making links with mainstream race equality work in local authorities and other agencies so that needs and aspirations are clearly set within the race equality legislative requirements as well as being part of the learning disability agenda. One other message that came across particularly strongly was the importance of involving and working with local community groups and being prepared to develop a relationship that was sustainable over time.

The Network now has a committed membership from nearly all parts of the region — this has led to some useful exchanges of ideas and the prospect of different places working together on particular issues.

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