



Implementing research on Black disabled children and short breaks

Ronny Flynn , SHSW

The Open University

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Policy, legislation and practice

- Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
- Other legislation and guidance
- More inclusive government initiatives
- Stronger body of research
- Informed by Black disabled people
- Use of Social Model + human rights



Overview of two studies

- **Access to short breaks: JRF funded 05/01-02/02**
- **National overview/review**
- **Interviews with 9 children & y.p. in Scotland**
- **Parent and short break carer interviews**
- **Survey of schemes**
- **Visits to 6 schemes**
- **Low take up: Barnardo's Midland funded 12/01-03/02**
- **One local authority**
- **Interviews with parents in 6 families (5 P and 1 B)**
- **2 young women**
- **Service providers from 19 agencies**



Common findings

- **Still unmet need**
- **Separation of disability and ethnicity**
- **Lack of information and communication**
- **Misconceptions and myths**
- **Home based popular**
- **Disabled children & young people want to get 'out and about'**
- **Families quite clear about what they want**
- **Shortage of Black workers and carers can slow progress**



Young people's views

- **7 Pakistani, 2 Chinese; 3 girls, 6 boys**
- **Wanted the same as non-disabled children**
- **Focus was often on what they *could not* do**
- **Barriers faced from parents and settings**
- **Education provided positive experiences**
- **Contact with friends difficult outside hours**
- **Culture and faith important but not supported in schools**
- **Access also denied within own communities**



Barriers to access

- Information not getting to parents
- Poor understanding about short breaks
- Misconceptions about social services
- Insufficient engagement and development work
- Poor strategies for communication
- Anxious if needs will be met
- Insufficient flexibility in services – one size fits all
- Children and young people faced particular barriers
- Poor coordination of services



What works?

- **Proactive community relations**
- **Detailed knowledge of the populations served**
- **Explicit policy and practice commitments**
- **Competent leadership, management, supervision, shared responsibility**
- **Sufficient resources – build in or redistribute**
- **Using the RR (A) Act 2000**



Development work – JRF research

- JRF and Community Fund money to employ 2 national development workers at SCN
- Each will work with 2 different short break schemes to implement recommendations
- Process will be written up and disseminated
- Findings are ringing true and the workers have plenty to do
- Organisational development needs emerge
- Needs of Black staff in this process need negotiating



Development work- Agency research

- SS Director took a personal interest
- Implementation group took responsibility
- Funding secured for an Asian development worker
- Much networking and preparation – but unable to appoint locally
- Want to re-advertise and recruit



Workshop tasks- share your experience

- Knowledge of, contact and relations with all local communities
- Effective communication and information
- Consulting with Black disabled children and their families
- Designing and delivering appropriate and flexible services based on consultation
- Overcoming institutional barriers, addressing myths and misconceptions, use of RR(A)A 2000
- Promoting inclusion with different minority populations- small and diverse