ADDRESSING CHANGING NEEDS OF BME COMMUNITIES IN ENFIELD

Suggested agenda item for the Enfield Strategic Partnership (ESP) board meeting (10 December 2013)

Submitted by Alessio D’Angelo,
Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences, Knowledge Transfer Leader,
Middlesex University, Social Policy Research Centre

The increasing diversity of migrant and minority ethnic communities and the growing awareness of multiple experiences of inequalities (age, gender, race and religion) require appropriate interventions and policy measures. At the same time, research shows that the recent economic crisis and the ongoing welfare restructuring are having a disproportionate impact on Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people throughout the UK.

Since the 1990s, the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC)\(^1\) at Middlesex has been working with local service providers, minority ethnic organisations and other local stakeholders to enable them gathering evidence and developing initiatives and practices to respond to a challenging socio-economic and funding contexts. Over the last five years in particular we have focused on a number of specific communities (Chinese, Irish, Polish, Afghan, Turkish and Kurdish) and boroughs (Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Harrow) - as well as addressing more general trends and issues at national and international level.

Recent themes and initiatives relevant to Enfield

As far as Enfield is concerned, our 2012 study with Enfield Citizens Advice Bureau (ECAB) explored advice need gaps among ECAB clients as well as in the wider Enfield population. The final report\(^2\) highlighted an expected increase in advice needs in areas such as debt, unemployment and changes in welfare regulations. It also identified key groups with emerging needs such as new migrant communities and new residents (due to Inner London to Outer London mobility).

Between 2011 and 2013 we conducted a number of research projects focusing in particular on Turkish and Kurdish populations. Our 2013 report on ‘Welfare needs of Turkish and Kurdish Communities in London’\(^3\) included detailed statistical analysis of the latest 2011 Census revealing that Enfield now hosts the largest Turkish-born population of the whole of London, surpassing boroughs of traditional settlement such as Haringey and Hackney. Our primary data collection and interviews with local service providers revealed how this is not matched by an equally developed, language and culturally specific service provision.

---

\(^1\) For further information about the SPRC, including projects, publications and events: www.sprc.info
Also in 2013, building on a previous European project on ‘Inequalities and multiple discrimination in access to and quality of healthcare’, we have been working with Enfield Racial Equality Council (EREC) on a community based project on ‘Barriers to Accessing Healthcare in Enfield’. The study involved a mapping exercise of existing health service providers and advocacy groups in Enfield in order to assess services provision, gaps and the extent to which local practitioners engage with equality issues and legislation. This was integrated with interviews and focus groups with local stakeholders and patient groups. Preliminary findings will be presented at a conference on November 15th and a report will be produced at the end of the year.

Finally, over the last few years the SPRC has been conducting a number of mapping exercises and evaluations of the migrant and BME community sector, identifying trends, challenges and future opportunities. These led to the development of specific recommendations in terms of engagement with users, funders and local authorities as well as sustainability strategies. In addition to London-wide projects we have been working on specific areas – in partnership with local organisations – such as Barnet and West London boroughs. Building on our previous work and established connections in Enfield we are now considering the feasibility of similar initiatives in this area.

**Suggested agenda item(s) for the Enfield Strategic Partnership**

Based on our experience and the recent initiatives summarised above, we would like to suggest some items for discussion for the next Enfield Strategic Partnership (ESP) board meeting:

- key findings from the above reports (focusing in particular on what is deemed more of interest and appropriate to the board members);
- specific implications on service areas such as: advice, education, health (also building on other nation-wide projects);
- overall recommendations to Enfield Council, local service providers and commissioners and the community sector;
- suggestions for future research, consultation, dissemination, knowledge exchange and capacity building initiatives.

**For any communication or queries contact:**

Alessio D’Angelo, Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences, Knowledge Transfer and Business and Community Interaction leader
Social Policy Research Centre, School of Law
Email: A.Dangelo@mdx.ac.uk ; Tel: 0208 411 4818

---

Addressing changing needs of BME communities in Enfield
Findings and recommendations from SPRC research

Alessio D’Angelo, Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences, SPRC
E-mail: a.dangelo@mdx.ac.uk
• The increasing (ethnic) diversity of local communities requires appropriate interventions and policy measures.
• The recent economic crisis and the ongoing welfare restructuring are having a disproportionate effect on BME people throughout the UK.

• Since the 1990s the SPRC has been working with local service providers, BME organisations and stakeholders to enable them gathering evidence and developing initiatives and practices to respond to a challenging socio-economic and funding context.

• Full list of projects and publications on www.sprc.info
Our research and knowledge exchange projects have included: mapping exercises, service evaluations, capacity building, training of community researchers, consultation events, conferences.

Areas in London: Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Harrow
Specific communities: Chinese, Irish, Polish, Afghan, Turkish, Kurdish, …
Partner organisations: Enfield CAB, Enfield Racial Equality Council, Day-Mer, CommUNITY Barnet, Paiwand, Runnymede Trust, …

Overall aim: gather evidence to inform interventions.

Full list of projects and publications on www.sprc.info
This presentation focuses on a few specific projects to highlight key findings and recommendations in the following areas:

- Mapping changing communities and needs (EREC; ECAB; Turkish communities; Hounslow)

- Evaluation of community services (supplementary education; advice services; community networks)

- Barriers to Accessing Healthcare (Enfield)

- Researching Early School Leaving in Europe (RESL.eu)
Mapping changing communities and needs – 1/10

• Equality in Enfield: The impact of policy changes
  • Consultation event promoted by SPRC and ERC in November 2010 to explore the impact of forthcoming policy changes (!)

• Enfield CAB - Clients Profile & Needs Gap Analysis (2012)
  • Map the characteristics of ECAB clients and assess impact
  • Explore needs gaps and identify new challenges and opportunities
  • Findings:
    • + 74% clients seen between 2011-2012
    • Under-represented groups: Clients aged under 25, and over 65.
    • Groups with emerging needs: New migrant communities; new residents (due to Inner to Outer London mobility); current residents (worsening socio-economic conditions).
Mapping changing communities and needs – 2/10

ECAB - Geographical Distribution of Clients

Figure 6 – ECAB clients per 1,000 people by LA ward
Mapping changing communities and needs – 3/10

ECAB - Geographical Distribution of Clients

Figure 7 – Average Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score by Enfield LSOAs
ECAB - Geographical Distribution of Clients

Figure 8 – ECAB clients per 1,000 people/Average Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score
Mapping changing communities and needs – 5/10

- Welfare needs of Turkish-Kurdish communities
- Community project in partnership SPRC - Day-Mer

- Included: Review of existing data; Training of community researchers; Survey of (112) services users; Interviews with (15) service users; Interviews with local stakeholders; Discussion of preliminary findings at community event; Final report launch.

- Findings:
  - 59,596 Turkish born people in London (Census 2011)
  - Largest communities in Enfield (23%), Haringey (17%), Hackney (15%)
  - 10 London wards with the highest proportion of Turkish and Kurdish population: long term-unemployment and social housing up to 100% higher than the London’s average.
Declared ethnicity: Turkish

Concentration in Enfield not matched by (community) service provision
Declared ethnicity: Kurdish

Concentration in Enfield not matched by (community) service provision
The effects of economic crisis and welfare restructuring:

- Some of the traditional work sectors (e.g. local ethnic businesses) have been disproportionately affected.
- Individuals felt public services (health, social housing, education) have been reduced both in terms of quality and quantity.
- Main changes in the welfare system identified as a cause of concern: benefit cuts, disability assessment, ‘bedroom tax’.

The effects were much more complex than many expected.

The process of welfare restructuring has increased a lack of trust in ‘the state’.
Mapping changing communities and needs—9/10

- New and Emerging Communities in Hounslow
  - The SPRC is currently working with Hounslow Borough Council to map the characteristics, needs and current use of services of 6 communities identified by the council as ‘newest and emerging’.
  - Afghan, Burmese, Sri-Lankan, Algerian, Bulgarian and Romanian.

- Outputs:
  - community profiles (characteristics, needs, service engagement);
  - directory of relevant community services;
  - identifying examples of best practice;
  - final ‘knowledge exchange’ event to discuss future plans.

- The project uses a community engagement approach, in partnership with the West London BMER Network and Acton Community Forum.
Mapping changing communities and needs – 10/10

• What happens next:
  • Launch of Hounslow Mapping Project
  • Ongoing mapping exercises

• What we would like to do:
  • Work with Enfield Council and the local community sector to replicate/extend some of our studies into Enfield.
  • Train the community sector (and other practitioners) in data monitoring, impact assessments and community research.
  • Share data an practices between boroughs and communities
Evaluation of community services – 1/2

• These have included:
  • Evaluation of education and advice services (Day-Mer; Paiwand)
  • Evaluation of community networks (BME Advice Network; Community Barnet)

• Funding sources: TSRC, community funding
• Results have been used by organisations to secure additional funding

• Overall findings:
  • A ‘perfect storm’ for the community sector: economic crisis, welfare restructuring, professionalization of Third sector, shift towards commissioning, ‘social cohesion’ agenda driving funds.
Evaluation of community services – 2/2

• What happens next:
  • Launch of BME Advice Network evaluation (Spring 2014)
  • Launch of Women Organisations mapping project (Spring 2014)

• What we would like to do:
  • Keep evaluating services (within an increasingly structured programme);
  • Find resources to continue the TSRC programme of capacity building ‘vouchers’ for the community sector;
  • Inform the development of capacity building and sustainability strategies.
Accessing Health Care: Inequalities in Enfield – 1/4

• The project builds on the experience of a previous project led by SPRC for the European Fundamental Rights Agency.

• The Enfield project aims at assessing inequalities in health outcomes and in accessing healthcare in Enfield.

• Included: desk research, telephone interviews (practitioners, patient groups, stakeholders), mapping of existing provision.

• It was delivered by EREC in partnership with SPRC (capacity building).
Key findings on inequalities in health outcomes:

- Significant gaps in health outcomes across the Borough (East-West divide in life expectancy).
- Higher rates of mental health issues than the London average.
- Parts of Enfield have worst heart disease rates in England.
- Some communities (Turkish) with high smoking rates.
- Some communities (Asian, Black) with high Diabetes rates.

What the FRA study revealed is that evidence on unequal health outcomes is not matched by evidence on access to healthcare.
Accessing Health Care: Inequalities in Enfield – 3/4

• Key findings on inequalities in access to healthcare:
  • Language is prominent barrier for many communities (esp. elders).
  • Difficulties in booking services (GPs and particularly referrals).
  • Not reached by preventative campaigns.
  • Lack of culturally-appropriate services for women.
  • Reluctance to use mainstream services (reliance on ‘healers’).
  • Most GP practices have no specific services in place
  • Little understanding of equality issues (“we treat all the same way”)
  • The restructuring of NHS lefts gaps in terms of Equality Duty.
  • Little awareness on collection and dissemination of data.
Accessing Health Care: Inequalities in Enfield – 4/4

• What happens next:
  • Workshop to discuss findings with key stakeholders: January 2014
  • EREC working on a BME Health and Wellbeing network

• What we would like to do:
  • Work with the CCG, Council and local community sector to improve quality of data monitoring and dissemination.
  • Support the development of a model to conduct ‘Health Equalities Impact Assessment’ (a statutory duty).
  • Support the development of training courses.
  • Disseminate findings among other boroughs as a model of good practice (Summer 2014).
This 5-year EU project “aims to provide insights into the mechanisms and processes that influence young people’s decision to leave school or training early, before gaining adequate qualifications for today’s demanding labour market”.

9 countries: Belgium, UK, Sweden, Portugal, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Hungary and Austria

UK research areas: Gateshead, Enfield and Barnet

Project involves: 3-year survey of students and staff; identify good practices (training programs, tutoring, internships, etc.)
Researching Early School Leaving in EU – 2/2

• 3 Barnet schools/colleges involved so far: Aylward Academy; Lea Valley High School; Barnet & Southgate College

• What we would like to do:
  • Link this with our previous experience on supplementary schools;
  • Maximise impact in the research areas;
  • Organise workshops and dissemination events in schools, with education practitioners and employers.
Addressing changing needs of BME communities in Enfield
Findings and recommendations from SPRC research

Alessio D’Angelo, Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences, SPRC
E-mail: a.dangelo@mdx.ac.uk