



EALING PCT PEER REVIEW: RACE EQUALITY AND CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

15-16 May 2008

Summary Paper

Peer reviews are used within the Race for Health programme as a learning tool, providing an opportunity for PCTs to demonstrate their progress and gain constructive challenge and advice, at the same time as offering peers the chance to learn from the experience of their colleagues from the host PCT and within the review team.

This paper provides some background information on the forthcoming peer review hosted by Ealing, so that Race for Health programme leads can identify the most suitable people within their PCTs to join the peer review team.

Background

Ealing is the fourth most diverse local authority area in England. About half the population is White British and there are large Indian, African-Caribbean and Eastern European communities. Ealing's population as a whole has a high health status in comparison with London and England, but there are large health inequalities between the 23 wards that make up the Borough. Health inequalities arise from a complex interaction of factors that are not always in the control of the NHS and may include the following:

- **socio-economic deprivation**, associated with lower health status;

- a mismatch between the supply of services and neighbourhoods with high health need (**'Inverse Care Law'**);
- **discrimination and exclusion**: open or covert, direct or indirect exclusion of individuals from access to the level of service they need, on account of race, gender, disability or other factors.

Ealing PCT has existed since 2002 and has participated in Race for Health since 2004. The PCT's commitment to promote equality is underpinned by a **Single Equalities Scheme** which includes the Race, Disability and Gender equality schemes. There are well established mechanisms for involving BME communities, for example, an Equalities Steering Group and a BME and Refugee Health and Social Care Forum. There is active interest in using Practice Based Commissioning to promote cardiovascular health. Among the challenges is the lack of patient profiling and other data relating to the measurement of progress towards race equality.

Theme

The review will focus on **the ways that Ealing PCT is responding to the complex causes of inequality in relation to Cardiovascular Health**. There will be opportunities to visit services and meet with key players in commissioning, service delivery and patient and public involvement.

Cardiovascular health is an important issue for the whole population and in particular for BME communities:

- Coronary heart disease (CHD) is the single leading cause of death in Ealing, as in England as a whole.
- Diabetes is a major risk factor for CHD, and Type 2 Diabetes is more prevalent in South Asian communities than in White British communities. Ealing has been recently exercised with developing a response to the Diabetes Patients Survey of 2007.
- Some interventions to promote cardiovascular health have been recognised not to be equally accessible to all communities, and measures to redress inequality have been taken, for example, through Local Area Agreement targets.
- Other interventions have been deliberately targeted to BME communities at high risk, for example by locating services in neighbourhoods of high need and developing greater cultural competence.
- There are areas of innovation in managing cardiovascular risk and opportunities to create efficient linkage between primary, secondary and tertiary interventions.

Key questions

The key questions for the review will therefore be as follows:

1. How effectively is the PCT **promoting cardiovascular health for BME communities**?
2. How can the PCT **practically measure progress** towards race equality in relation to cardiovascular disease?
3. How can the PCT **plan its workforce most effectively** to meet the challenges?
4. How can the PCT most **effectively draw on the support of local communities** in the work that it either commissions or directly provides?

Who should attend?

Ealing PCT invites peer reviewers with an interest, or experience in the issues to be explored in the review. Ideally, the peer review team will have around 8 - 9 members. Race for Health Programme Leads are asked, in the first instance, to identify one suitable person from their own PCT or from their partner organisations (including the voluntary and community sector and local authority representatives). In particular, the PCT is keen to work with a team with a broad range of experiences, and therefore encourage expressions of interest from:

- PCT Chairs/Chief Executives
- PCT Non-Executive Directors
- Commissioners, including PBC, acute, primary care
- Public Health and health promotion specialists
- Clinicians including GPs
- Pharmacists in prescribing/ medicines management teams
- Managers of CVD prevention or treatment services
- Managers responsible for primary care planning and development
- BME Health voluntary sector representatives

It is important for members of the peer review team to recognise that they are making a significant commitment to the programme and the PCT when they volunteer to become a member of a review team. Last minute cancellations can significantly affect the success of the peer review, so we would ask that when

people sign up, they have an 'understudy or deputy' ready to step into their place if necessary.

Practical details

A programme and background paper for the review will be circulated to members of the team in due course. However, some preliminary details are as follows:

- The review will begin at **4pm on Thursday 15 May and will finish at 4pm on Friday 16 May 2008.**
- There will be an introductory session on participating in a peer review, followed by a welcome briefing by Ealing PCT and an informal dinner. The programme will begin again at 8.30am the following morning.
- **Accommodation** will be arranged for review team members at a local hotel. The cost of accommodation will be covered by Race for Health.
- The team will work in both plenary and smaller groups during the main review day, with **facilitation and support** from learning programme advisors Shared Intelligence.

How to book a place

For more information, of event registration, please contact Genorie Thomas at genorie.thomas@sharedintelligence.net or on 020 7756 7600.