

South Craven Community Action/Connecting Communities undertook a multi agency research project which was presented at our conference on the 1st November. The aim of the research was to look into the needs of minority ethnic people living and working in the Craven area.

Below are listed some of the more pertinent points pulled from the research.

- Need for a social arena for meeting other people, reducing isolation, advice giving and social activities. This was found to be important to people of all ages.
- The police were felt to be making good efforts to build good community relations however when reporting racist incidents some people felt that no action was taken which deterred people from continuing to report.
- The fire service was seen to be friendly and to give an excellent service.
- Health visitors especially among the over 30 age group were seen as better people for accessing information about health than their GPs but it was felt that there was a need in health centres for a community language and for a health centre in Broughton Road Skipton.
- Young people said they thought the job centre lacked understanding of minority ethnic people and some people had had a negative response from some of the workers.
- Not enough after school activities that were ethnicity friendly was mentioned which was felt to create divisions and access to sport/opportunities denied to Asian youths partly they felt because of stereotyped expectations and a lack of understanding regarding their religion.
- The library received good reports from all age groups and from migrant workers who saw it as a good information point, however they also felt that very little services were available.
- Young people thought that diversity was a positive thing and integration was important. There was a willingness to be involved in decision making processes especially regarding social inclusion.
- Migrant workers expressed concern over a lack of job description or policies regarding working practices. Documents were given but were seen to be too technical in nature. Some felt they had to accept racist comments as part of everyday life which was a view expressed by all participants. Other forms of racism included getting picked on, name calling, damage to property and cars, offensive words written on toilets at work and school. The general view was ignore it because you can't do anything about it anyway and there was a fear of the consequences if it was reported. Migrant workers also found there was a reluctance from some estate agents to give tenancy to workers which made looking for accommodation difficult. At work they said they were expected to pay towards meals when their white colleagues did not have to. Migrant

workers when talking about religion were finding attending mass difficult because of shift patterns and because it was only once a week on a Sunday. In their country of origin mass was available everyday.

The overall view on racism however was that it was important to maintain a positive attitude towards the desire to build positive relationships through dialogue and integration.

Copies of the research are now available at a cost of £5 from South Craven Community Action 01535 639041.