BAME Mental Health Project – Report on Findings for Hammersmith & Fulham
Shad Haibatan
Head of Organisational Development, Sobus

In 2018 Sobus started working on a BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Mental health project in partnership with BAME led organisations and other voluntary and community organisations who were interested in the issue. This included the Young Hammersmith & Fulham Foundation, Nubian Life, People Arise Now, Community Education Forum. The disproportionate numbers of BAME people diagnosed with mental health conditions under the care of mental health services and inadequate service provision has been a concern for decades.

One of the project's first priorities was to evidence these concerns. The project sought and received data from West London NHS Trust (the main provider of mental health services in 3 west London boroughs (Hammersmith & Fulham , Ealing and Hounslow), data from Hammersmith & Fulham GP Federation along with LBH&F Social Care data, as well as our own survey of the sector. There was a huge amount of data to analyse and we did not have the data analysis skillset and resources in our team to undertake this. Luckily in 2019 we managed to get support from the GLA Superhighways project. They connected us to DatakindUK who provided pro-bono support through volunteer data scientists.

Questions being addressed included:
- Was there a disproportionate representation of BAME people diagnosed and under the care of Mental Health Services?
- What was the service provision for BAME community suffering mental health issues?

Key initial findings for Hammersmith & Fulham included:
- BAME communities are disproportionality represented in mental health care - generally 3 times to 8 times higher in some diagnosis higher than white equivalents
- Level of service support was below the London average
- Hammersmith & Fulham appears to have the highest rate of BAME self-harm in London

We hope the report of the data analysis will inform and engage Mental health service providers, the local authority and voluntary and community sector organisations in addressing inequalities faced by BAME individuals adversely affected by mental health conditions.

The data analysis is just the start of the project's work. It is hoped that the various commitments to change the situation will translate into a genuine collaborative systematic community focused approach, which will deliver more effective, culturally appropriate mental health services to all communities.

The final report will be launched online on 16th December – If you are interested in please book through following link.
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bme-mental-health-research-report-launch-tickets-131593731393