

Nothing about us without us!

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A person stands on a grassy field at sunset, holding a large red heart high above their head. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with several large, overlapping circular lens flares emanating from the heart. A semi-transparent red banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing white text. The bottom of the image features a horizontal bar with three colored segments: green, purple, and red.

The Power of Sharing our Story (challenging stigma, guiding narratives)

About the Minority Ethnic Health Development Project

Waverley Care's Ethnic Minority Communities Development Project is **led by the communities' it is designed to benefit**

The project works with communities, staff, service users and partner organisations to make sure that the Scottish response to HIV-related health inequalities is inclusive of Minority Ethnic Communities voices.

Minority Ethnic Health Development Project

How:

- Listening to communities' perspectives (e.g. HIV and services knowledge assessment focus groups)
- Augmenting/loudening communities' voices (involvement in working groups)
- Co-producing accessible services and information communities need (e.g. cultural sensitivity roleplay videos)
- Experience-evaluation of services
- Media representation (Jambo Radio show)

Etc. (all peer-led initiatives)

“Opening up about my HIV status has given me the confidence to live authentically and live well with HIV. It has also helped me to challenge negative perceptions of HIV and what it means to live with HIV within my community!”



The need for community level advocacy

One of our 5 pillars is 'Leading the way in advocacy...'

- Sometimes people need a louder voice to resound/channel theirs
- Living-experience guided approaches
- Overcoming power imbalance (legacy of the past, secondary citizenship)
- A base of accountability
- Sustainability
- Knowing when to call it quits and move on/move sideways!

Community advocacy gone wrong

- Sending out the advocate without resources to advocate
- Falling on deaf ears
- **Tokenistic community involvement in advocacy**
- Asking the wrong questions of communities
- **Taking silence for acceptance**

Going beyond...

- Building more people's confidence to self-advocate
- Bringing people into the inner sanctum
- Active listening and active motion
- Honest transparency
- Getting to 'we are in it together...'
- Getting comfortable with discomfort, hard truths, uncertainty

Get involved

The goals of the Minority Communities Development Project are:

- Improving knowledge of Waverley Care and our services within Ethnic Minority Communities
- Representative and appropriate information provision
- Identifying and addressing barriers to accessing HIV related services, information and support
- Co-producing services that communities benefit from
- Internal organisation/service evaluation and improvement

Find out more/Get Involved by emailing ese.johnson@waverleycare.org

Thank you



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