

Case Study: Birmingham's Newly Migrant Communities and their Health Needs

BACKGROUND

M-E-L Research was commissioned to carry out a mapping exercise and qualitative consultation with community groups in the Birmingham area. The work was commissioned by the corporate policy and performance team at Birmingham City Council.

This commission came under the requirement to deliver Recommendation 3 in the council's Health Overview and Scrutiny committee report *The Health Needs of Newly Migrant Communities* published on 9 September 2008.

The main objective of this project was to assist the corporate policy and performance team to map where newly migrant communities live in Birmingham and help identify health needs especially relevant to particular communities. The project is helping the council and its partners to deliver the city's strategic outcomes of; *Be Healthy* and *Enjoy a High Quality of Life*.

A secondary objective is assisting the council's preparations for the 2011 Census. Having a more accurate insight of where newly migrant communities live will help the council target its communication strategies and deploy its resources to those areas where additional help may be needed to complete Census forms, thereby maximising returns.

METHODOLOGY

The study took a two pronged approach:

- ◆ Analysis of existing datasets, including 2001 Census Country of Birth, School Pupil Language data, GP Registrations, Births by Mother's Country of Birth, National Insurance Number Registrations and UK Border Agency data.
- ◆ Face-to-face interviews with representatives of local community groups engaging with migrant communities.

CLIENT SERVICE AND SUPPORT

The project was led by M-E-L's Senior Social Research Consultant, Dr Liz Yardley. Liz said about the project, *"The picture of newly migrant communities is a difficult one to draw in any area, particularly due to the nature of existing datasets and difficulties in comparing like with like. However, by accessing a variety of data through Birmingham City Council, we were able to develop insights into how Birmingham's migrant communities have changed since the 2001 Census. Supplementing this with qualitative consultation work enabled us to identify the specific health needs associated with particular newly migrant communities. This work has been important in further emphasising the value of PCT and local authority collaboration and we will be presenting our findings to Birmingham's PCTs in the near future. We hope this work will have a real impact on service planning and commissioning for newly migrant communities in Birmingham and beyond."*



For further information about our work with Birmingham City Council, please contact Dr Liz Yardley Liz.Yardley@m-e-l.co.uk or call 0121 604 4664