

LEICESTERSHIRE CYPS BLACK CASES PANEL

- HISTORY
- PURPOSE
- PROCESS 1
- PROCESS 2
- MESSAGES AND LESSONS
- CHALLENGES AND ISSUES



HISTORY: A Journey

- Part of overall strategy for work with BME communities
- 1990s: Concerns that young black people were discriminated against within criminal justice processes.
- Extended to residential and leaving care services
- LGR 1997
- 1999: Inspection of service to BME families
- Revival of the BCP idea: to review services to ALL BME children and families, propose improvements and learn lessons.

PURPOSE

- To ensure that all children and families receive appropriate services.
- To comply with section 22 (5)(c) of the 1989 Children Act. (due consideration to the child's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background)
- To share experiences and knowledge of BME issues.
- To tap the experience and knowledge of staff from BME communities.
- To identify service gaps and deficits

PROCESS 1: The Panel

- Panel Membership: Balance of black and white staff (avoid ‘black only’ perception).
- Time and commitment; and senior lead
- Information needed: Keep it simple
- Preparation for the meetings (inc service users)
- Informal and collaborative
- Identification of issues
- Recording



PROCESS 2 Follow up

- Reports to social worker and others involved
- Report back/discussion with family
- Collation of issues – identifying trends, gaps etc.
- Report to Management Team
- Representation to other services/organisations



MESSAGES AND LESSONS

- Large and changing variety of cultures
- Personal learning. Everyone can learn something
- Needs commitment and persistence
- Need to adapt the approach to local conditions
- It does make a difference



CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

- Gaining buy in
- Identity – no issue to confused/dysfunctional
- Who is included in the target group?
- Numbers and priorities
- Variable responses to racism
- Dual heritage
- Resources
- UASC