//I Foundations

What Works Centre for Children & Families

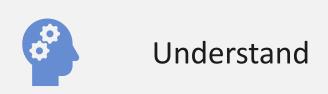
SPEAKING OUT

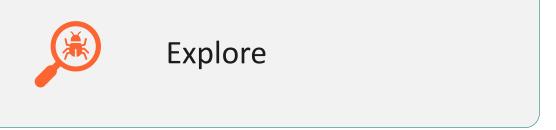
What evidence and practice leaders can do to tackle racial disparities for families in England

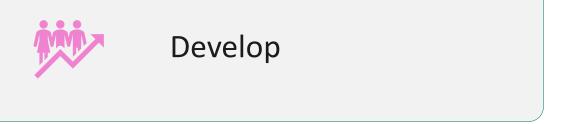




Goals for this session







BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS









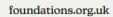
.. some groups don't receive the support they need, resulting in poorer outcomes, while others are more likely to have a higher level of intervention.

A lack of data limits the research that can be done, but we will consider what can be learnt about racial disparity in every study we carry out.

We will speak up for families who experience racial discrimination and use evidence about what works to call for change."

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS









SpeakOut

Improving the way family support services work for minority ethnic families



Key findings

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1. Experiences of discrimination and racism were commonly reported, both in trying to access services and in the support that families received from services.

"There were clear disparities.

There were clear differences in the way

There were clear differences in the way

that my family were treated, my son in

overtices that were clearly defined."

"I had been stigmatised by systematic

"I had been stigma

Key findings



2. Minority ethnic families were proactively seeking help, but encountered multiple barriers, including finding appropriate services, issues with service capacity and long waiting lists, and negative experiences of the first point of contact with services.

"Nobody tells us what and how support we can get and how to get it."

"They recommended I speak to a GP with a paediatric specialism. The GP basically said there is nothing she can do, but she did make a referral to CAMHS – but also said she didn't hold out any hope they would accept the referral. They did not."

Key findings



3. More than 40% said the support they then received made no difference or made things worse. Parents and young people said they did not feel heard, understood, validated or empowered, and some even felt judged by the practitioner working with them when seeking help.

"The people who ended up trying to help me were not helpful at all and just made me feel like my problems aren't really problems. CAMHS didn't help at all and made me feel worse, and the same with the family support worker"

"Sometimes it felt as though I
was being judged as though
I'm a bad mum even though I
reached out for the help to
begin with."



Policy and practice implications

- 1. Children and family services must embed effective approaches to eradicate racist and discriminatory practices.
- 2. Initial interactions with support services are critical. Local areas must make the idea of 'no wrong door' a reality for minority ethnic children, young people or families who reach out for help.



Policy and practice implications

- 3. Early help and wider family support services must be designed to better respond to the needs of minority ethnic families.
- 4. Workforce planning in relation to early help and wider family support services must include a focus on the skills needed to build trusting relationships with minority ethnic families.

Developing local approaches to improve services for minority ethnic children & families



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What Works Centre for Children & Families

ACHIEVING
EQUITABLE
FAMILY SUPPORT
Theme 1: Local
communities

"[Our local area] is very diverse and there's different needs in different areas. So what? It's almost like one shoe doesn't fit all [...] So we want to get the right services for people in the right places."



ACHIEVING
EQUITABLE
FAMILY SUPPORT
Theme 2:
Workforce

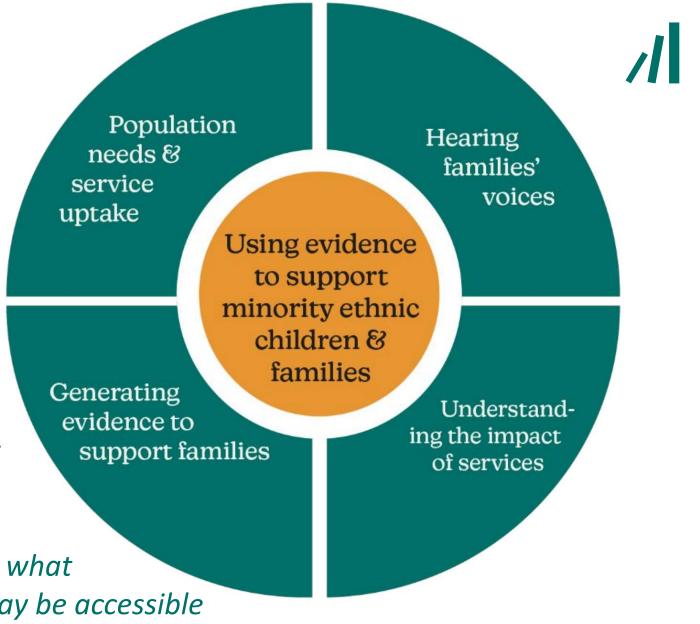
"When I tell you something happened to me, it's not an attack on you."

"When you work with a disclosure, you listen. You don't make excuses."



ACHIEVING
EQUITABLE
FAMILY SUPPORT
Theme 3: Using
evidence

"We have a service user forum...
which is obviously really important
for us in terms of feedback on how
we're doing as a service, which
challenges what we're doing right, what
we're not doing right, where we may be accessible



for others where we may not be, and that's where we get a bulk of our information from."

ACHIEVING EQUITABLE FAMILY SUPPORT



Policy & Practice recommendations

National Government

- Profile
- National leadership
- Local capacity
- Incentivise data

Research Organisations

- Synthesis
- Generation
- EDIE lens

Local Authorities & partners

- Understanding current provision
- Responsive support offer
- Evaluating improvements







https://www.eif.org.uk/report/improving-the-way-familysupport-services-work-for-minority-ethnic-families



Improving the way family support services work for minority ethnic **families**

June 2022

Stephanie Waddell, Miriam Sorgenfrei, Grace Freeman,



https://foundations.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2023/06/Foundations Our-Strategy-2023-2027.pdf

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What Works Centre for Children & Families

SPEAKING OUT

What evidence and practice leaders can do to tackle racial disparities for families in England

