



Merton Clinical Commissioning Group



Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group



South West London

## Merton and Sutton Health Diversity Initiative 2009-2013

The Health Diversity work streams in Merton were funded by Government Office London from September 2009 to March 2012. In March 2012 NHS South West London Public Health funded and expanded the Initiative for hard to reach and migrant communities across Merton and Sutton for a period of twelve months; evaluation of the work is ongoing and success to date will further inform ongoing service developments.

The motivation to progress the Health Diversity Initiative in 2009 was based on outcomes of an A&E project in 2008/2009; it highlighted the need to improve communication and education needs for migrant patients whose first language is not English. GP practices identified some patient groups who used emergency services during weekday in-hours. Since 2009 focused supportive health promotional work has been delivered.

Work is supported by a wide range of stakeholders across Merton and Sutton including NHS South West London and London Ambulance Services, Merton and Sutton GP Clinical Commissioning Groups, Sutton and Merton Local Authorities and a diverse group of local charities and patient groups.

Managed by Merton CCG on behalf of NHS SW London; the team comprises of an experienced health project manager with a team of three Bi-lingual Health Advocates (Tamil, Polish and Urdu/Gujarati/Hindi) working with patients, communities and organisations to enhance wellbeing and NHS signposting. The team are based at James O Riordan GP Practice in Sutton. They provide and facilitate innovative NHS signposting programs, Bi-Lingual Advocacy, smoking, weight management clinics and resources for education and health promotion within the heart of communities.

### The team aim to:

1. Strengthen and champion the health of hard to reach and migrant communities within their community.
2. Tackle major killers smoking, obesity and heart disease using dynamic health interventions in collaboration with Merton and Sutton GP Practices, NHS SW London Public Health Teams, Merton and Sutton Local Authorities, charities and patient groups.
3. Support younger migrants who are less likely to register with a GP and to develop initiatives to address this.

### Contact

The Health Diversity and Bi-Lingual Advocacy team are based at James O Riordan GP Practice IN Sutton . Contact the Project Manager Annie Ford on 0208 254 8390 or email [annie.ford@smcs.nhs.uk](mailto:annie.ford@smcs.nhs.uk)

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