

Black History Month

October
2023

Inequity in palliative and end of life care

Research into palliative and end of life care experiences of people of African and Caribbean descent found this group often experience inadequate palliative and end of life care.

Interviews with affected individuals revealed that they felt the culture in healthcare settings was not always sensitive to diversity. Some participants reported feeling excluded and discriminated against and felt that their cultural beliefs and values were not understood or respected.

People of African and Caribbean descent are often termed a 'hard to reach' group, yet research suggests that it is actually services that are hard to reach.

These experiences suggest that there is a need for change in the way that palliative and end of life care is delivered to people of African and Caribbean descent.

“People from ethnic minorities face barriers when accessing end of life care services and are less likely to receive good care. We need to know why this is, and how this can be changed.”

Dr Felicity Dewhurst, COVID 19 – Palliative and End of life Care experiences of people of African and Caribbean descent (PEACE).

What is Ashgate Hospice doing to address this issue?

Ashgate is committed to improving the palliative and end of life care experiences of people of African and Caribbean descent, as well as other under-served communities, ensuring they have access to the care they need.

To achieve this, we are:

- **Raising awareness** of our services by working closely with diverse community groups.
- **Offering training** to help staff and volunteers provide culturally sensitive care and services; and challenge institutional racism and discrimination.
- **Taking action** to increase the diversity of our workforce, and actively encourage staff and volunteers from underrepresented groups to join our workforce.

What can you do?

- **Be aware** of your own beliefs and prejudices.
- **Learn** about different cultures and ethnicities – ideally from people with lived experience.
- **Notice** and remove barriers that may prevent someone accessing our services; including in patient care, shops, fundraising events.

For more information or support:

UK Black History Month:
www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

BIM2023
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African Caribbean
Community Association:
www.accacheesterfield.org.uk



Liz Allam, Equality Diversity and
Inclusion Lead at Ashgate Hospice:
liz.allam@ashgatehospice.org.uk

