



Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC)

Big Lottery Funded Local Development Project

NEEDS ASSESSMENT HEADLINE REPORT

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Purpose

Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC) has been established since 1971 and is a voluntary body and charitable company comprising individual members and representatives from a wide range of organisations.

ELREC has a remit to work across the areas of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.

We aim to:

- Work towards the elimination of racial discrimination.
- Promote equality of opportunity and good race relations between persons of different racial groups.
- Promote and organise co-operation of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations.

In 2008 ELREC was awarded funding from the Big Lottery to facilitate a Local Development Project (LDP). The LDP is made up of a research project and related activities within the three Lothian areas outwith Edinburgh. Namely, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian. The aim of the project is to assess the needs and priorities of the local Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people who reside, work or study in these areas and to address these needs, where possible, in a variety of ways.

ELREC set out to collect grass roots data from the various BME communities by carrying out structured outreach work in the form of needs assessment questionnaires. These questionnaires sought to tackle a number of themes and these are explained and discussed in the main body of this report to follow.

Actual number of BME people included in these headline survey results:

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Actual number of BME people included in headline survey results	26	19	37

Sample profile data – often split by Lothian Local Authority area

The themes explored in the needs assessment were: education, employment, health services, health and wellbeing, community services, media, cultural and leisure, police, personal safety, awareness of local community, perception of Lothians as a place to live, racism, personal goals and priorities for change.

Firstly we look at the makeup of the needs assessment participants in terms of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, place of birth and religion.

Gender by percentage

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Gender			
Male	69	74	70
Female	31	26	30

Age range by percentage

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Age			
0-16	-	-	5
17-21	-	-	26
22-30	16	23	11
30-40	56	38	36
41-50	14	27	11
51-	11	12	11
Not given	3	-	-

Ethnicity by percentage

Local Authority Area Ethnicity	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
White English	4	-	-
Pakistani	19	21	57
Mixed Race	4	-	-
Caribbean	4	-	-
Chinese	8	-	-
African	4	11	19
African-American	4	-	-
Bangladeshi	8	21	-
Indian	15	16	8
Philippines	-	5	-
White Polish	-	26	11
White Iranian	-	-	3
White Spanish	-	-	3
White Slovakian	8	-	-
White Bosnian	8	-	-
White Russian	4	-	-
Not answered	12	-	-

Disability by percentage

Local Authority Area Disability	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
None	96	95	97
Visual Impairment	-	-	-
Hearing Impairment	4	-	-
Physical Disability	-	5	3
Learning Difficulty	-	-	-
Wheelchair User	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-

Sexual orientation by percentage

Local Authority Area Sexual Orientation	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Lesbian	-	-	-
Gay	-	-	-
Bisexual	4	-	4
Heterosexual	96	84	86
Transgendered	-	-	-
Prefer not to say	4	16	11

Place of birth by percentage

Local Authority Area Place of birth	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
India	15	16	8
Bangladesh	8	21	-
Pakistan	19	5	11
Nigeria	4	-	16
China	8	-	-
Morocco	4	-	3
Spain	-	-	3
Poland	8	21	11
Prague - Czech Rep	-	5	-
Malawi	-	5	-
Zimbabwe	-	5	-
England	8	5	24
Bosnia	8	-	-
Scotland	4	5	19
Slovakia	8	-	-
Russia	4	-	-
Burma	-	5	-
Philippines	-	5	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	3
Iran	-	-	3

Religion by percentage

Religion	Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Christian		15	37	30
Muslim		23	26	59
Hindu		12	5	-
Sikh		4	11	5
None		46	21	5

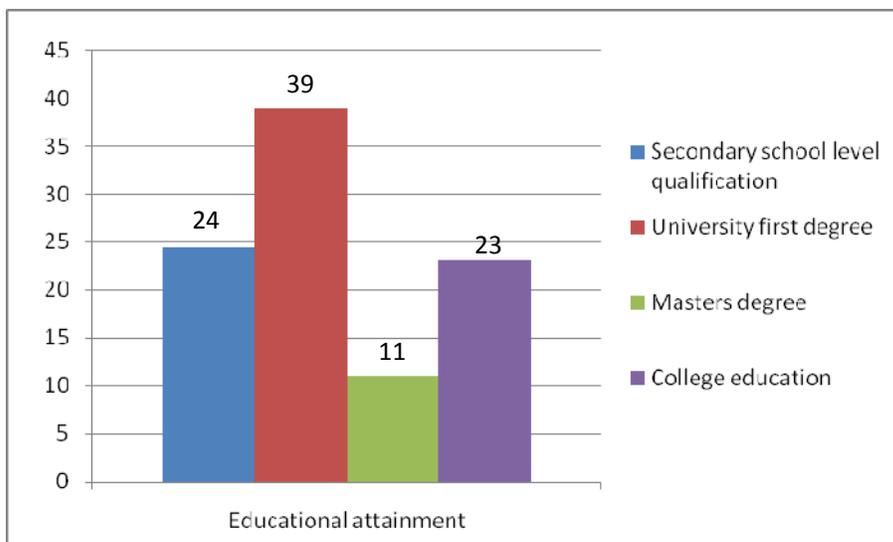
Number of years lived, worked or studied in West Lothian, East Lothian or Midlothian by percentage

Duration in years	Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
0-1 years		12	16	16
1- 5 years		35	53	27
6 - 10 years		23	21	14
10+ years		27	11	38
Not stated		4	-	5

The themes explored – key statements

Education

98% of people had some qualification of school level or above, those and higher levels were proportioned as follows.



In relation to the question, 'Did your experiences of school/college/further education meet your expectations and/or aspirations?' the vast majority of respondents, 59% responded with a 'yes' to this question. A further 15 % felt 'some of them' were met.

When asked 'Did you feel there was enough support for BME people there?' 20% of people said yes and a further 40% advised they were not affected by a lack of support and a further 12% again advise they 'didn't notice' if there was enough support.

Employment

84% of participants were in employment, proportioned as follows:

- 20% of those BME individuals spoken to were self-employed,
- 38% full time employed and,
- a further 26% involved in part time employment.

In each of the three areas when asked 'do your skills, qualifications and experience match the role you are in right now' - 46%, 54% and 47% for West, East and Midlothian

respectively answered yes. Whereas 16%, 12% and 0% for West, East and Midlothian respectively answered 'some of them do'.

When asked if there was any other job you would like to do 51%, 62% and 32% of those responding in West Lothian, East Lothian and West Lothian respectively had something definite in mind. Over the three areas that's 48% of people wanting to be in a different role/discipline of work.

Housing

The vast majority of people were happy with their current housing arrangement. The figure over the three Lothian areas was 87%.

Very few people resided in local authority or housing associated rented accommodation. 7% to be exact. Most people owned or privately rented their properties.

One of the important housing questions was: 'Have you ever been asked/involved in or taken part in any consultations/surveys regarding your housing needs?' Only 9% had been asked to take part in such an exercise.

Examples of surveys and consultations related to housing people had been involved in are:

- Energy consumption at home survey
- Local committee about children's park
- Council survey
- Housing census
- Census
- Local community council survey

Health services

Very nearly all of those people surveyed in East Lothian and Midlothian were happy with the health service (89% and 73% respectively). The figure from West Lothian was 62%.

Below are examples of suggestions made by the participants:

More on policies and treatments

For Asian related diseases ie, diabetes/thallasemia

Health in general

Diabetes/blood pressure

Diabetes, cardiac arrest, community related disease awareness

Heart disease

Quicker hospital appointments needed
Acupuncture
Would like better explanations generally
Increased regularity of smear test
Who has to pay for prescriptions

Participants in West Lothian indicated that the Internet is their main source of health related information. Whereas participants in East and Midlothian tend to use medical staff, GPs and hospitals to access health related information.

Again, very few people had been part of health related consultation exercises. Even fewer than for housing, standing at just under 5%.

Health & wellbeing

This area of the questionnaire focused particularly on mental health and wellbeing and was undoubtedly the least understood area. Hence we had least comment from people on this section of the needs assessment. It was the area in which we had to prompt respondents most and we were asked to clarify this question each and every time we asked it. We got a definite sense that this topic was not one people were comfortable discussing.

We asked 'If you had a serious personal problem, who would you go to for help?'

The top answer given by participants in West Lothian and Midlothian was "Friends" and in East Lothian "Support services". Other options were:

Siblings
Neighbours
Parents
Family friend
Colleague
Family
Partner/wife/husband

Community Services

Figures for those that do or would be happy to take part in some form of community activity were reflected as follows in terms of 'would vs would not'

2.5 times as many would in West Lothian vs would not

2 times as many would for East Lothian vs would not
3 times as many would for Midlothian vs would not

The overwhelming majority of people who attend a community activity attend weekly. The two main activities were mosque and church attendance.

Media

51% of people across the areas felt the media portrayed a negative image of minority ethnic people.

See some of people's comments below:

"Misconception of British Pakistani Muslims"

"propaganda always negative not accurate"

"black people always criminals. Look at me and the person I'm supporting. You would not see this on TV. "

"No Chinese people featured"

"They underestimate bme"

Suggestions in relation to creating a better image were:

"Involve BME's in the media, education is the first step"

"involve people in positive manner, educate all cultures about each other"

"create own press free of censorship and corruption 'Scotland Uncovered'"

"respect humanity"

"lack of recognition, curry demo at scot parliament more covered in local media. Never see our pupil's achievements"

Cultural & leisure

We asked people how often they enjoyed the following leisure activities:

Sport/leisure Centres

Libraries

Art Centres

Museums

Theatres/Cinema

Using sport and leisure as an example, for all three areas combined 65% used these services less than once a week, with 45% of those people never visiting such a facility. In relation to Libraries, Art Centres, Museums, Theatres/Cinema, in each of the three areas, when asked , 'how often do you use these services?' the leading answer was always 'never'.

Police

The perceptions of the police and people's interactions with them were explored here. The majority (70% of those who gave a response) felt the police were helpful and approachable. Most of the people we spoke with, if they had had police engagement it had been as the victims of a crime. People were keen to give us their views on how the police service might build better relations within communities.

- Carry out grass roots community work and presence
- Have greater visibility
- Race relations training of police
- Talk to us
- work more on racism/bullying
- gain our trust and show respect to members of bme community
- Discipline the children, get them off the street and home late at night. Where are the parents?

Many (see racism section below) of the participants who had experienced race crime said that it was often committed by youngsters. Hence the last bullet point above 'child discipline' was mentioned regularly throughout the questionnaire.

Personal safety

Reasons for not feeling safe within each of the three local authority areas ranged in the following order, most feared to begin with:

Racial harassment fears
Alcohol related fears
Fear of crime, and
Drug related fears

Awareness of local community

Most people in each area had voted. At least 2 out of 3 of people in each area would vote in the next election.

Very few people had a good knowledge of the political arena in their area. They said they knew little, enough or nothing at all of their local politicians. This was not an area people spoke freely about or had a huge understanding or knowledge of.

Perception of Lothians as a place to live

At least twice as many people in all three Lothians felt their authority area is a welcoming place - West Lothian and Midlothian in particular.

Local Authority Area	West Lothian	East Lothian	Midlothian
Yes	75	63	67
No	25	22	22
n/a	-	16	11

Racism

Nearly 1 in 2 people had experienced some form of racism in the Lothians. This was supported by racial harassment being the top fear in relation to personal safety.

Racism by percentage

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Suffered			
Yes	42	42	49
No	50	47	46
Don't want to talk about it	8	11	5

Personal goals

Encouragingly people were full of aspiration surrounding this theme. Most people had an idea of their own personal goal immediately. They were extremely varied - from astronomical desires to becoming an MP.

Some of the leading and resounding goals were:

- Success in business, happiness and harmony with all
- Better life for family
- Do something more rewarding - husband would like a job in art history
- To work professionally
- To have a good proper job, some accommodation and just live a normal life.
- Have own business

- Like to learn more English and change job as temping to survive
- Go back to college and study cookery and become a chef
- Get good career for children, pilgrim to Mecca, set up community centre locally
- Finish the college and go to university, get a job.

Priorities for change

We were inundated with suggestions for change. Lots of resounding statements were logged and listed as below.

More police on the street

Local facilities – groceries

BME events

Further initiatives for BME individuals to integrate into Scottish life

More English language classes

Young people's facilities

More community activities and a social venue for BME people

Older people's activities, outings

More affordable housing

Education on health issues – healthy eating, diabetes.

Improved local transport services

Workplace cultural awareness raising

Cultural and religious awareness raising within schools

Regular BME and non-BME interaction to break down barriers

Discrimination prior to and following employment must be checked and monitored to provide job equality

Reporting of racism locally, mentors locally

Recommendations

- Actions plans aimed at key service providers and partners to be distributed separately.
- Higher visible policing.
- More anti-racism education for children and young people.
- Increase involvement of BME communities in providers' consultation.
- More local, accessible advice/support services designed for BME communities.
- Raise awareness and involvement of BME communities in political structure.
- Better strategies in tackling fear of racial harassment.

Acknowledgements

ELREC would like to thank partners who have worked with us to facilitate this section of the Local development project.

ELREC importantly must thank those who took part in the needs assessment survey and shared their very personal experiences with us.

All ELREC staff have played some part in this section of the Local Development Project and thanks to them is also extended.