

Understanding diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicity for adult social care (the DECK study)



Reducing social care inequalities has been a UK priority for over 20 years. Despite efforts to create a more equal society, progress has been limited, and some areas of inequality have widened for older adults (particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic). Inequality and inequity remain under researched topics in social care.

In 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) commissioned a rapid realist evidence review to support primary research and evaluation of ethnic differences in provision and experience of adult social care in England. Exploring the needs and barriers to access was identified as an urgent research priority, especially for the UK ageing population. This research is crucial to addressing this priority.

What are we doing?

This project applies a realist action approach to ask ‘for whom does this work, in what contexts, to what extent and how?’ with a participatory action research cycle, to better understand the influence of diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicity as barriers to access and uptake of social care services on older adults from two London Boroughs (Redbridge and Newham).



How is it helping?

This research will lead to co-developed resources and recommendations to improve access and uptake of local social care services considering diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicity as barriers.

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