



Cheshire West and Chester Council
Focus on our Communities



Cheshire West and Chester's

BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITY



Cheshire West
and Chester

Focus on our Communities

Cheshire West and Chester is made up of many different types of people - with different cultures, beliefs, attitudes and needs.

As a service provider, it is essential we understand our communities so that we can improve quality of life, offer excellent customer services and cater for everyone in the best way possible.

'Focus on our Communities' is a series of short reports, each looking at groups that are often hidden or not well known, and who form part of the equality streams covered by the Single Equality Scheme. These reports aim to provide a snapshot of the issues as a spring board to learning more about the residents of Cheshire West and Chester.

The communities considered in the series are:

- Black and minority ethnic community (BME)
- The lesbian, gay and bisexual community (LGB)
- The transgender community
- The disabled community
- Children and young people
- Older people
- The religious community

This particular report focuses on

Cheshire West and Chester's

**BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC
COMMUNITY**

Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille and Large Print formats. If you would like a copy in any of these formats or in another language, please email us at equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk We are also able to provide a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter to support customers with accessing Council services.

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

Pokud byste požadovali informace v jiném jazyce nebo formátu, kontaktujte nás

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如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

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Further Information

'Communities'

Although we have used the term 'communities', we acknowledge that these communities are made up of very different individuals, with different needs and outlooks. We have grouped them together to help develop our understanding, as they often experience a level of overlap on the key issues they face.

Equality and Diversity

Further information on the 'Single Equality Scheme' and 'Equality and Diversity' can be found on the Cheshire West and Chester website at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/equality

Any comments or questions about equality and diversity should be directed to the Equality and Diversity Managers:

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The Reports

The reports were prepared by the Research, Intelligence and Consultation Team. Information has been gathered from a wide range of local, regional and national data. For further questions relating to the reports please contact:

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Background

'Focus on our Communities' is a series of short reports looking at communities of interest in Cheshire West and Chester. These communities are linked to the equality streams covered by the Single Equality Scheme. **Whilst the reports highlight many difficulties faced by our communities, they do not present the good work done by many Council service areas, partners and the Third Sector in supporting vulnerable groups.** Instead, they serve as an introduction to the key issues affecting particular communities. **This report looks at the black and ethnic minority community (BME).**

Summary

- The size of Cheshire West and Chester's black and minority ethnic population (often termed BME) is relatively small at 6.1%.
- BME groups face disadvantage in accessing public services such as healthcare, education, benefits and social services due to an inability to speak English, services being culturally insensitive, a lack of knowledge of their rights, cultural norms and experiences of prejudice and discrimination.
- This can lead to BME groups experiencing poorer health and mental health, higher levels of unemployment, poorer education, a lack of support and poorer living conditions.

Introduction

The size of Cheshire West and Chester's black and minority ethnic community population (often termed BME) is relatively small at 6.1%. In the North West this figure is 10.5% and 16.1% nationally. A number of ethnic minority groups reside in Cheshire West and Chester including those of Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, African, Caribbean, Polish, Arabian, Turkish, Thai, Czechoslovakian, Irish and Traveller origin.

The term 'Gypsy/Traveller' refers to distinct groups including Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Scottish Travellers. They regard the travelling lifestyle as part of their ethnic identity (whether or not they still travel or have settled) and are classed as an ethnic group. There are other types of Traveller, such as a travelling show person (carnival and circus people) and New Age Travellers who are not classed as an ethnic group.



Key issues

Discrimination

Discrimination is a major issue affecting the BME community. A Stonewall survey, *Understanding Prejudice in England* (2003), revealed that the two main justifications for prejudice are cultural and economic. BME groups were perceived as receiving 'preferential treatment' or as being an economic threat, particularly asylum seekers, Travellers and Black people. In a MORI study *Profiles of Prejudice* when asked **if there are any minority groups that they felt less positive about, around one in five people said an ethnic minority group**, with 35% saying Gypsy and Travellers and 34% refugees and asylum seekers. Prejudice often leads to discrimination and hate crime.

There are two types of discrimination:

- direct discrimination which includes physical and verbal abuse
- indirect discrimination where individuals are excluded or affected by something such as a rule, a policy or a practice.

Discrimination can take place by individuals, services (such as shops and pubs) or institutions. **A report by the Commission for Social Care Inspection revealed that in care and nursing homes, one-quarter of BME people had faced discrimination** including verbal abuse and indirect discrimination such as the failure of services to provide information in a person's preferred language. **A Cheshire, Halton and Warrington study with Gypsy and Travellers, 'Here to Stay' revealed that 60% felt they had been unfairly treated** including name calling, being refused entry to local amenities, being asked to leave pubs, shops and other facilities, being followed by security and being blamed for trouble.

Hate Crime

Hate crime occurs when an individual is subjected to verbal, physical or sexual abuse, intimidation, damage to property and bullying or harassment because of their belonging to a perceived group. According to Refugee Action, 83% of female refugees and asylum seekers say they do not go out at night because they fear abuse and harassment. Almost half of Gypsy and Travellers who took part in 'Here to Stay' said that they or their family had been abused, called names or attacked because of their background.

Living

BME communities often face poorer living conditions:

- Research by the Citizens Advice Bureau found that nearly a third of migrant workers and their families live in private rented accommodation through their employers which is usually shared. Rent is high and if they lose their job they can become homeless.
- The Pakistani and Bangladeshi community often live in overcrowded houses with their extended family, sometimes in poor conditions due to high levels of unemployment and deprivation.
- There is a lack of permanent and transit Gypsy and Traveller sites in West Cheshire and it is estimated 26% of Cheshire West and Chester's Gypsy and Travellers live on accepted sites. They often live in poor conditions with restrictions to water, electricity and waste utilities.

Employment

In 2005 national unemployment rates were highest for people of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin (15%). Also, according to the Commission for Racial Equality unemployment is also relatively high in the Gypsy and Traveller community as they may lack literacy skills and may not have a permanent residence. However, there is a lack of systematic data on Gypsy and Traveller employment.

Many Gypsy and Travellers are self employed in jobs such as scrap metal collection and landscaping. The Pakistani and Chinese community are also more likely to be self-employed, particularly in the catering industry. Due to language barriers migrant workers usually find jobs through family and friends or private agencies. Research by Citizens Advice Bureau found that many have professional, college or university qualifications but work in jobs where qualifications are not needed and are paid a minimum wage.

Education

White Irish, Chinese and Indian groups are most likely to have a higher level qualification. Some 63% of Chinese and Indians are graduates compared with 16% of White Britons. **The lowest educational attainment is seen amongst Black and Pakistani school children.** In West Cheshire, the number of Gypsy and Traveller children on the school roll is 151 and a further 57 are home educated (November 2010). The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) indicate a decline in access and attendance at secondary level compared to primary level. One reason for this is the bullying that they face and a preference for home education (particularly of practical skills).

Language

The inability to speak, read or write in English is often a causal factor in other issues and is particularly a problem for first generation ethnic minorities, migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers. Key issues affected include:

- employment, such as the ability to apply for a job or requirement in many jobs to speak English
- education, with the impact on children and young people's learning at school
- access to services, including access to leisure activities, benefits and social housing.

There is a provision of free English language courses but many, particularly migrant workers, work long hours and are on shift patterns making attendance difficult.

Health & Wellbeing

The Fourth National Survey of Ethnic Minorities found that **BME minorities were more likely to report fair, poor or very poor health, limiting long-standing illnesses and a disability.**

The British Medical Association states that:

- **Gypsies and Travellers are the highest risk health group in the UK** with the lowest life expectancy and the highest child mortality rates.
- Pakistani groups are three to four times more likely to rate their health as bad or very bad.
- The Irish, African and Caribbean communities often experience poorer mental health than other minority groups and are at increased risk of enforced care.

BME groups report more mental distress and a lack of social support. One in five mental health in-patients in the UK comes from a BME background. **Minority ethnic groups are more likely to experience verbal abuse and discrimination, which are associated with anxiety, depression and suicide.**

Access to Health & Social Care Services

In BME groups there is often a lack of knowledge of health issues and a lack of available information. **Research by the Department of Health showed that services do not always take cultural differences into consideration resulting in the under use of services.** Migrant workers face difficulty understanding local health care systems and can be unaware of their rights. Provision of interpreting services in the NHS is ad hoc, creating a problem for making appointments, understanding diagnosis and issues of confidentiality.

A survey by Chester Asian Council showed almost two thirds rely on friends and family. BME groups are less likely to visit the dentist, opticians, or to use NHS direct; and BME women are less likely to use antenatal services, prenatal testing and cervical screening (South Asian particularly). The British Medical Association also found that Gypsies and Travellers underuse the health service due to a tradition of relying on remedies and family advice and a lack of permanent residence.

Those of Chinese, South Asian and Gypsy and Traveller origin do not always use care facilities for older relatives and disabled family members as they prefer to care for them in the home. However, this is not always practical for families and can lead to a lack of coping and support. **The Commission for Social Care Inspection found that care facilities such as residential homes or personal carers may be regarded as culturally insensitive.** For young people in residential or foster care, it is important to be placed in a culturally appropriate home with religion and ethnicity taken into account, however a lack of BME carers has been identified in the UK.



Deprivation

BME communities, particularly migrant workers, refugees and first generation settlers, may lack knowledge of their rights and responsibilities and the services available to them. Registered migrant workers are entitled to child benefit, tax credits, housing benefit and council tax benefit (not jobseekers allowance), but research by the Citizens Advice Bureau found around 70% do not claim because they can not complete the application form, do not know they can get benefits, do not know how to claim, or do not qualify. Gypsy and Travellers also may not claim due to lack of knowledge of entitlement or literacy problems. A study in Cheshire, Warrington and Halton (2006) revealed that although 80% of Gypsy and Travellers interviewed were not in paid employment, over three quarters were not receiving benefits.

The circumstances around living conditions, employment, health and benefits mean that a number of ethnic minority groups can be subject to multiple deprivations. Most affected are Gypsies and Travellers with poor health, high unemployment and often poor living conditions. Others affected include Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers.

Asylum

An asylum seeker is someone who has applied to the government to be recognised as a refugee. According to the 1951 Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who: *'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'*.

The Convention guarantees everybody the right to apply for asylum.

Most asylum seekers today are from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Somalia. Many countries from which asylum seekers come have human rights abuses, conflicts and war. The UK is home to less than 3% of the world's refugees. According to Oxfam, most asylum seekers are living in poverty and experience poor health and hunger. The accommodation allocated to them is not paid for by the council and is nearly always 'hard to let' properties. They are denied access to benefits, such as disability living allowance.



Culture

Culture can be thought of as the way in which a person lives his or her life which is characteristic of a particular group of people. This is usually learned from family and surroundings and can include the sharing of a specific language, traditions, perceptions and beliefs.

Izzat is important to those who originate from South Asia which includes those from Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

To live honourably means to live by tradition and follow cultural norms around marriage, the family, gender roles and socialising. **Cultural norms are not always taken into account by services which can lead to their under usage, such as muslim females must not see a male doctor and must only attend women only leisure classes.**

Cultural norms have a particular impact on the lives of South Asian women with gender norms indicating how to dress, behave and socialise.

Between January and August 2009, the UK's Forced Marriage Unit received 1,063 reports of possible forced marriage, an increase of 251 on the same period in 2008. Nearly 401 of the cases concerned people under the age of 18. Cultural norms can also have a profound affect on gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, as homosexuality is illegal in over 80 countries and some cultures follow strict gender norms. According to Cheshire Police, one of the most difficult challenges is encouraging victims to approach the authorities to report incidences of violence as victims often feel responsible for the violence.

Key Facts Population

Table 1. Population by Ethnic Group for Cheshire West and Chester, the North West and England

ETHNIC GROUP	Cheshire West & Chester		North West		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
All Persons	328,100	100%	6,864,300	100%	51,092,000	100%
White (Total)	317,300	96.7%	6,324,600	92.14%	45,082,800	88.24%
White: British	308,500	94%	6,137,800	89.42%	42,736,000	83.65%
White: Irish	2,700	0.82%	69,800	1%	570,500	1.12%
White: Other White	6,100	1.85%	117,000	1.70%	1,776,300	3.48%
Mixed (Total)	2,800	0.85%	85,400	1.20%	870,100	1.70%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	800	0.24%	27,800	0.40%	282,900	0.55%
Mixed: White and Black African	400	0.12%	13,300	0.19%	114,300	0.22%
Mixed: White and Asian	900	0.27%	25,200	0.37%	260,900	0.51%
Mixed: Other Mixed	700	0.21%	19,100	0.28%	212,000	0.41%
Asian or Asian British (Total)	4,100	1.24%	304,200	4.43%	2,914,800	5.71%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	1,900	0.58%	99,900	1.46%	1,316,000	2.58%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	900	0.27%	143,900	2.1%	905,700	1.77%
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	700	0.21%	34,800	0.51%	353,900	0.69%
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	600	0.18%	25,600	0.37%	339,200	0.66%
Black or Black British (Total)	1,500	0.46%	75,100	1.10%	1,347,900	2.64%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	500	0.15%	25,500	0.37%	599,700	1.17%
Black or Black British: African	900	0.27%	42,600	0.62%	630,600	1.23%
Black or Black British: Other Black	100	0.03%	7,000	0.10%	117,600	0.23%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group (Total)	2,300	0.70%	74,900	1.10%	776,400	1.52%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	1,300	0.40%	46,200	0.67%	400,300	0.78%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other Ethnic Group	1,000	0.30%	28,700	0.42%	376,100	0.74%

Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2007 Mid-Year Population Estimates

The most recent population estimates (2007) indicate that 94% of the population in Cheshire West and Chester are 'White British'. There is a relatively small population of BME residents at 6%. The top three ethnic minority groups are 'Other White', 'White Irish' and 'Indian'.

The 'Other White' population is the largest ethnic minority group, more than double the number of any other ethnic minority. Generally, the BME population tends to have a younger age profile, except for those of Irish origin.

Population Growth

Although the percentage of ethnic minorities is small there **has been a growth for all groups except for White British and White Irish, where there has been a decrease.**

For all other minority ethnic groups the growth rate is high, particularly for those of Pakistani (800%), Black African (350%) and Indian origin (216%).

Table 2. Population growth for BME groups in Cheshire West and Chester

ETHNIC GROUP	2001 Census	Mid-2007 Population	Change 2001-07	% Change 2001-07
All Groups	322,100	328,100	6,000	2%
White: British	310,600	308,500	2,100	-1%
White: Irish	2,800	2,700	-100	-4%
White: Other White	3,900	6,100	2,200	56%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	400	800	400	100%
Mixed: White and Black African	300	400	100	33%
Mixed: White and Asian	600	900	300	50%
Mixed: Other Mixed	500	700	-200	40%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	600	1,900	1,300	216%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	100	900	800	800%
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	500	700	200	40%
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	300	600	300	100%
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	200	500	300	150%
Black or Black British: Black African	200	900	700	350%
Black or Black British: Other Black	0	100	100	100%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	900	1,300	400	44%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	500	1,000	500	100%

Figures calculated from 2001 Census and Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2007 Mid-Year Population Estimates

Note that there is an element of natural growth due to the population structure of ethnic minority groups, as they have a younger age profile and younger people often have families.



Migration

The Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust has undertaken birthplace analysis using the Family Health System. 2007 data showed that the largest ethnic minority groups born outside the UK were from:

- **Western Europe** with large numbers coming from Germany
- **Eastern Europe** with the majority coming from Poland and a smaller number from Slovakia and Lithuania
- **South Asia** with the largest numbers coming from India followed by Pakistan and Bangladesh.

2006/07 National Insurance Registrations showed that there were 1,840 registrations to non-UK nationals across Cheshire West and Chester representing 29 countries. Almost half of all those registering were from Poland (please note: issues with the data sources imply that the figures may be much higher for migrants as dependents are not always taken into account and there are a number of migrants working illegally).

Those migrating to the UK are of a young age, which suggests population figures may continue to rise due to young families.

According to the 2006/07 National Insurance Registrations, **63% of all migrant workers who registered in Cheshire West and Chester took up residence in the Chester area.** In 2005 in Cheshire West and Chester, the former Chester district had the highest BME population, almost 7%. Ellesmere Port's BME population was 5.2% and Vale Royal 4.1%. Smaller area data will be available in 2013 from the 2011 Census. The previous Census (2001) suggests many BME groups reside in the city and town centres.

Gypsy & Travellers in Cheshire West and Chester

In July 2010, the caravan count showed 154 caravans belonging to Gypsies and Travellers sited in Cheshire West and Chester. In April 2010, there were six Gypsy and Traveller sites (with 58 pitches) with permanent planning permission and five sites (with 18 pitches) with temporary permission. There are a further two sites, one of which was dismissed at appeal and the other waiting an appeal date. There was also an accepted encampment, which has no planning status. In addition, there are a number of Gypsies and Travellers living in houses due to a choice to settle or lack of authorised sites. An assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in 2007 revealed the need to provide between 31 and 45 residential pitches and 10 transit pitches across Cheshire West and Chester. A 2008 study revealed that six out of ten households on accepted encampments were looking for somewhere secure and stable within the area.

What does this mean for Cheshire West and Chester

For the Area

- Population has continued to increase for all ethnic groups except for the White British and White Irish population, which is decreasing.
- Many move to Cheshire West and Chester for work or to be near to family and friends. The impact of this is that many choose to live in city centres and larger towns and figures show there is an increase in migration to Chester in particular.
- The make up of **Cheshire West and Chester is becoming increasingly multi-cultural** and will be reflected more so in the city and larger towns than in rural communities. Shops and religious places of worship may develop to cater for a diverse population.

For the Council

- The Single Equality Scheme places a legal duty upon councils to offer all information in different languages and to ensure services and staff do not act discriminatorily. For Council services, the first step will be to recognise the impact of ethnicity upon services and **to take forward equality impact assessments** to ensure positive progress can be made.
- Awareness training to ensure all staff have an understanding, of not only their duty, but of the issues that affect different groups of people, can improve customer services and help identify potential issues in service areas. It is important to create a supportive organisational culture.
- The Council also has a duty to ensure fair employment and that employees are treated in an equal manner and supported.
- The issues around employment, health and discrimination (besides others) emphasise the importance of support and advocate groups (groups that petition and promote the rights of minority groups). Funding and supporting these groups is a function of the Council. These groups can give information about benefits, health promotion and learning resources and act as a social network.
- The importance of **working with partners to act against hate crime, support health promotion, look at issues around education and social care is also key to transforming services**. This ensures that all services, not just those directly related to the Council, are explored in their impact on all groups of residents.
- As communities become increasingly multi-cultural, there will be a need to focus attention on Community Cohesion in Cheshire West and Chester.
- **Highlighting and promoting the positive work done by the Council, partners and the Third Sector will help to share good practice.**

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