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The Housing and Support Needs of Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Norfolk and Waveney



Final Report

August 2007

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The Housing and Support Needs of BME communities in Norfolk and Waveney



Aim of the Study

- To improve the understanding of the BME communities' housing circumstances and support needs.
- Better inform BME strategies and policies created by Local Councils and Organisations

- 23 Organisations funded study
- Breckland were the lead organisation
- Consultants appointed through a tender process in September 2006
- Final report produced in July 2007

Sources used

- Secondary data included census information and existing research
- Stakeholder consultation with organisations currently working with BME communities
- Survey of BME residents conducted via face to face interviews

Figures

Census figures 2001

- England 13%
- East of England 8.6%
- Norfolk and Waveney 3.7%
- Breckland 4.73%

Mid 2004 estimates show a 50% increase
on the figures

BME populations

The definitions used are those of the census

White British

White Irish

White Other

Mixed

Asian or Asian British

Black or Black British

Chinese

Other



- White Irish 14%
- White Other 46%
- Mixed 16%
- Asian or Asian British 9%
- Black or Black British 5%
- Chinese or other 10%



White Other

- Largest BME group
- Most problematic in finding data on them
- Thetford / Swaffham areas @ 6000 Portuguese (Taylor Rogaly report in 2003)
- Mainly migrant workers
- Portuguese, Polish, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Latvian Cypriot, Slovakian, Russian, Brazilian, Estonian Czech, Ukranian

- Research samples

White other	39.6%
Black or Black British	20.3%
Chinese	17.6%
Asian or Asian British	14%
White Irish	8.1%
Mixed	0.4%

Results from survey

- 62 different languages spoken in Norfolk and Waveney
- 85.4% spoke English
- 81.1% could read English



Housing Circumstances

- 33 % in Flats, maisonettes
- 57% in Houses
- 10% in temporary structures such as caravans
- 80% of the accommodation was shared with non family members

- The majority of the sample had lived in their accommodation for more than a year
 - The most mobility is within the white other category which fits with the migrant worker
 - 75% of those surveyed indicated that the accommodation was their main home.
- Within the White other category 66% indicated it was not their main home.

- 90% of the accommodation was considered in good order
- 10% that was not had problems with damp and heating.
- The biggest problem experienced within the survey was the high cost of accommodation
- Only 9% received housing or other benefits

Council services

- Very low awareness of Councils' housing related services
- The area of most awareness is Disabled Facilities Grants, Home Improvement Grants, Homelessness but this was less than 25%
- Language the greatest barrier to accessing services

Main Findings

- No housing needs were identified specific to a BME group which were not relevant to the general population
- Most BME groups were unaware that information and services are available

