

## **Community of Practice - Mobilising Knowledge about ethnicity and health**

### **What is a community of practice?**

“Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly”<sup>1</sup> Communities of practice have an identity defined by a shared domain of interest, members build relationships with each other that enable them to learn from each other and they develop a shared repertoire of resources: experiences, stories, tools, ways of addressing recurring problems – in short, a shared practice.

### **What is this community of practice about?**

My name is Lynne Carter. I’m an equality and diversity manager working with the NHS and am currently funded by the National Institute of Health Research as a Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellow. To put it simply, knowledge mobilisation is about closing the gap between what we know and what we do. In a health context, it aims to make sure that research evidence and other types of knowledge lead to benefits for patients and populations. I’m learning about how to make sure that what we know about the health inequalities linked to ethnicity leads to action. I hope that those of us advocating for race equality can become more effective by creating and then mobilising knowledge, by making better use of evidence. This community of practice is for anyone else who wants to learn how to do this better. I certainly don’t know all the answers and hope we can learn together.

For more information about my research and my blog please see [www.eeic.org.uk](http://www.eeic.org.uk)

### **How will we meet?**

I imagine much of the contact we have with each other will be via email. We can also have teleconferences and I have some funding to pay travel expenses if we decide to meet up face to face. It’s up to us.

### **How much time will it take?**

I’ll gather together a list of members and suggest some initial topics for discussion. It’s up to each community member how much you want to be involved. I have experience of teaching and training so like to think I know how to help people learn but I haven’t been part of a community of practice before (well not with that name anyway) so I’m very open to suggestions from community members about how to progress.

### **How do I get involved?**

Either email me on [lynne.carter1@nhs.net](mailto:lynne.carter1@nhs.net) or call me 07989 345372. If you’re not sure whether you’d like to be involved, I’m happy to talk some more about it with you. Just give me a ring.

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<sup>1</sup> “Communities of practice A brief introduction” by Etienne Wenger  
[https://www.ohr.wisc.edu/cop/articles/communities\\_practice\\_intro\\_wenger.pdf](https://www.ohr.wisc.edu/cop/articles/communities_practice_intro_wenger.pdf)