

We are not really hard to reach

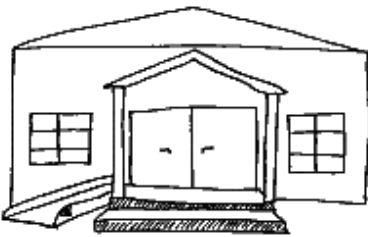


It is very important to include different groups of people in meetings and decision making.

If you find that your group is missing people from a certain part of the community you might try:

To go to where people are, they are easy to find at:

- Day centres
- Colleges
- Work
- Advocacy organisations
- Group homes
- Community Centres
- Temples
- Churches
- Mosques
- Synagogues
- Carers' groups

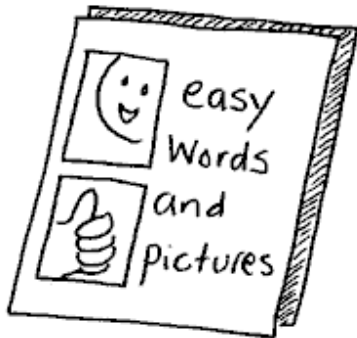


You just need to work to find them. Someone needs to be employed to do it. The key to getting more people involved is to go out to meet people and build a relationship, before expecting them to come to a group.



Do not expect only one person from a different community to join your meeting.

An individual might not feel comfortable. For example just like a woman may not feel able to join a group of all men.



Information needs to be available in many different ways:

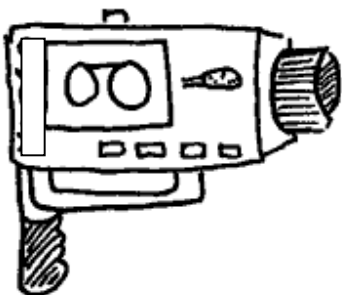
Big print

Easy words and pictures

On CD and audio tape

In Braille

Or translated into other languages by someone who knows the language and culture.



Information could be presented in an interesting and exciting way – using DVDs and music.



Do not be afraid to speak to people from particular communities.

Check 'how are you feeling?'

'Is there anything we can do to help you feel more comfortable?'



Get help from members of that community

To make contact with different people you will need help from members of the community.

The Race Equality Officers in the Council or Primary Care Trust or the Council for Voluntary Services could help you.

They have lists and know many Community Champions.



Really think about:

Where you meet
When you meet
How you meet

These things may be stopping people from different cultures from taking part.

People need to have time to think and

answer.



Do not talk about lots of issues in one Meeting and have breaks so people are relaxed and able to make important decisions.

Everyone can make choices.

Use sticky dots, or voting boxes.



At first you might need to think about having separate meetings with people from some cultural groups to introduce yourselves and get to know them. You should check with them what would be most comfortable..