

# LINK CONSULTATION 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2008 – BME PROJECT - ASIAN WOMEN

**PARTICIPANTS:** 17 Women aged between 16 and 70 years of age.

## QUESTION 1

- Health Issues identified by the Asian women were, skin problems, eczema, hay fever and allergies, asthma, blood pressure, Thyroid malfunction, strokes, and high cholesterol.
- The women commented that within their communities there was an increase in diabetes.
- One woman spoke of family eye sight problems reporting that two members of her family had become blind.
- Healthy eating was a major concern and most of the group felt that they were at risk of experiencing high cholesterol.
- Lack of Dentists was another major issue and the high cost of treatment.
- Appointments at opticians was highlighted as an issue.
- Gynaecological problems such as heavy periods was raised by the women.

## QUESTION 2:

What do you see as the main social care issue affecting you in Doncaster?

- The women in this group said that they did not believe in “social care” and described their culture as being one of “looking after their own”.
- A BME Support System specific to BME systems for carers was identified as a need.
- Meals on wheels service catering for the BME Community e.g. vegetarian and Halal food.
- Day Care Centres for the Asian Communities, staffed by Asian people.
- Asian Health Care staff working in the Community.

## QUESTION 3:

How do you think these issues can realistically be tackled?

- Services available that are culturally appropriate and sensitive to meet the needs of the Asian Community.
- Increased funding for delivering services for Asian Communities.
- Day Care Centres.
- Health Services for women only based at the Women’s Centre.
- Bi-lingual staff.
- Health Care Professionals trained in Asian Cultures, religions and belief systems.

QUESTION 4:

What are the 3 issues that you would ideally like Doncaster Link to take forward?

- Health Care Services at the Women's Centre.
- More funding for "women only" services.
- Asian Carers in the Community service.
- Need for Asian Health Care staff.
- Culturally appropriate meals on wheels service for the Asian Community.
- Healthy eating courses at the Women's Centre
- Affordable dentist care, for families on low incomes.