

LINK CONSULTATION 2nd DECEMBER 2008 –

POLISH WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

PARTICIPANTS: 20 Women aged between 19 and 51 years of age.

QUESTION 1:

What do you see as the main health care issues affecting you in Doncaster?

- Registering with a doctor is a major issue within the community.
- Unable to register with a Dentist.
- Diabetes, Heart Disease, Blood Pressure, Obesity, Cholesterol, Arthritis, Strokes and Kidney Disease are prevalent.
- Lack of Opticians.
- Smoking, Alcohol problems and lung disease.
- Cancer

QUESTION 2:

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

None of the women in this group had any knowledge of “social care”. After informative debate the women explained that they are new to this country and in their opinion many social care tasks should be provided by the family. However, when this isn't possible they would like culturally sensitive services available to meet their needs. The main social care issues were

- Social Care accommodating the needs of the Polish Community.
- Meals on wheels and Day Care Centres (culturally appropriate food).
- Translation services readily available in health care and Community based care services.
- Staff trained and employed from the Polish Community in social care areas.

- Information about services to be made easily accessible.

QUESTION 3:

How do you think these issues can realistically be tackled?

- Staff trained and employed from the Polish Community.
- Services that meet the needs of the Polish Community.
- Listening to the opinions of the Polish Community.
- Women only services – well woman clinics.
- Mobile Dentists i.e. based at the Women's Centre.
- Health screening available at the Women's Centre.
- Health Awareness sessions.
- Translation services.
- Easy access to GP Services.
- Information translated into Polish.
- Mobile opticians.

The women in this group stated that the health care that they receive in Poland is excellent. They feel that being new to this country they are often isolated and excluded due to the language barriers. Some of these women are not registered with a doctor or a dentist. This community would like to be treated as equals by the health professionals and be given the same rights and opportunities as the residents of this country.

QUESTION 4:

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

- Women only services.
- Employing staff from the Polish Community
- Provision of more Dentists.
- Acknowledge the opinions of the Polish Community.

- Respect & dignity for all.
- Information and advice to be easily accessible.
- Staff within the health service be given training on customer care i.e. friendly staff.
- Choice about care and the opportunity to complain if dissatisfied with care and service.