

Attitudes and Barriers Within the BME Communities On Being a Donor

To date, the main attitudes and barriers that have been expressed by the Chinese, South Asian and African Caribbean communities on being a donor in the events in Leeds, London and Manchester from November 2007 – May 2008 are:

- Having a fear of needles
- Ignorance and naivety about what it means to be a donor, e.g.
 - People don't realise there are two different ways to extract bone marrow
 - 38 tests on blood are carried out before it is used – this is not known by people and may help to encourage them to give blood
- People don't have the time to donate (e.g. blood or bone marrow)
- People don't think it is important to them
- Death is a taboo subject
- People who feel socially excluded also feel 'what has this got to do with me' – I'm not important
- The need for blood, tissue, bone marrow and organs is a white middleclass issue (and not one from their community)
- People have long memories. In the 1960s people from the black community were turned away when they wanted to donate blood. This was identified in three out of three African Caribbean events
- Taking from the body can be seen negatively
- People are worried about the mutilation of the body – body/image is very important to some communities
- Assumption that not everyone can give blood such as third world immigrants – another myth