



COLLABORATIVE CENTRE

- ETHNIC INEQUALITIES
- SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS
- MULTIPLE DISADVANTAGE

LAUNCH

B R O C H U R E

WEDNESDAY

22nd NOVEMBER 2017

RIVINGTON PLACE, LONDON

FIRST WORD

The Synergi Collaborative Centre has ambitious plans. It aims to better understand and tackle ethnic inequalities in the risk and consequences of severe mental illnesses among ethnic minority people. Core to Synergi's work will be to examine how the multiple disadvantages faced by ethnic minority people, as a result of their 'racialised' identities, shape these inequalities.

The increased risk of experiencing a severe mental illness is amplified by substantial additional inequalities regarding admission to psychiatric hospitals, compulsory treatment and access to psychological therapies. Evidence on these issues has been repeatedly provided over the past 30 years, yet we are still waiting to see any significant response to, or a reduction in these inequalities.

Synergi will provide a strong evidence base to inform our understanding, to enable us to engage in service reform. To achieve this, we will work in close partnership with the full range of stakeholders, gathering the in-depth perspectives of service users and the public, communities, and the agencies and clinicians providing health and social care. Especially important is bringing the expertise and understanding of those experiencing mental illnesses centre stage, to give full recognition to the hidden and ignored lived experience narratives.

Through collaboration, creativity, innovation and persistence, we intend to galvanise all efforts to enable the creation of healthier care systems, social systems and living spaces.

The Synergi Collaborative Centre Project Partners

Professor Kamaldeep Bhui (Queen Mary University of London)

Professor James Nazroo (the University of Manchester)

Joy Francis (Words of Colour Productions)



LAUNCH PROGRAMME

5pm-6pm

Food. Drinks. Connecting

6pm-6.20pm

Performance

So U Think i'M CraZy?

by Know My Mind (London)

6.20pm-6.40pm

Short presentations: Part 1

Marcia Willis Stewart QC (Hon)

David Lammy MP

(Filmed presentation)

Professor Kamaldeep Bhui

Queen Mary University of London

Professor James Nazroo

The University of Manchester

6.40pm-7pm

Performance

Naomi Sumner

Poet (Manchester)

7pm-7.20pm

Short presentations: Part 2

Aronda Atkinson

Mental Health Project Worker

Dr Jayasree Kalathil

Survivor Research

Joy Francis

Words of Colour Productions

7.20-7.40pm

Performance

Call Me Unique

Singer/Songwriter (Birmingham)

7.40pm-8pm

Response Space

8pm

Close

CO-HOSTS



Marcia Willis Stewart QC (Hon) is a partner at the renowned Birnberg Peirce & Partners law firm and represented 77 of the 96 families of the deceased at the Hillsborough Inquests.



Joy Francis is Executive Director, Words of Colour Productions, Co-Founder, Digital Women UK, and Co-Founder of The Black Love Project UK.

PRESENTERS



David Lammy MP for Tottenham is a former Minister for Culture and Minister for Higher Education, and was appointed to the Privy Council in 2008. He has been an active backbench MP since 2010.



Kamaldeep Bhui is Professor of Cultural Psychiatry & Epidemiology, Queen Mary University of London, and a Consultant Psychiatrist, East London Foundation NHS Trust.

PRESENTERS



James Nazroo
is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), the University of Manchester.



Aronda Atkinson
works with people who have experienced social exclusion and deprivation by increasing their resilience and social capital through creating innovative programmes.



Dr Jayasree Kalathil
is an independent researcher, writer and psychiatric survivor activist, and runs the virtual collective Survivor Research.



PERFORMERS

Know My Mind

Know My Mind is a community theatre group based in Croydon, London, which shines a spotlight on mental health issues from the perspective of service users and carers. It launched in 2013 when Ekanem Hines (a member of the Croydon Carers' Group) and Assistant Psychologist Rhian Tait decided to capture the stories of carers and service users for a 'tell all' report. The report, 'Tell it like it is...mental health in the community: Opening Pandora's Box?' was published in 2014. Know My Mind's Co-Founder Ekanem Hines wrote the stage play **So U Think i'M CraZy?** which made its debut in May 2014, and has since showcased at different venues across the country to rave reviews. The play uses song, dance, poetry and drama to convey the journey of a young African Caribbean man's physical, psychological and spiritual journey that led to his incarceration in a psychiatric hospital.

Play: So U Think i'M CraZy?

Cast: Judy Harrison, Angela Walters,
Nicola Hunte, Melissa Hines and Paul Mendez

Technician: Justin Katko

Creative Director: Pam Smith

Director/Producer/Playwright: Ekanem Hines



"I sat throughout the play thinking how easy it would be for me to turn from carer to someone using the services, plus the added stigma of me as a black male."

Caring Mind Blog

PERFORMERS



Naomi Sumner

Naomi Sumner Chan is a poet, playwright and theatre maker based in Manchester. A trans-racial adoptee, adopted from Hong Kong in the 1980s into a White British family, a lot of her work is about race and ethnicity, complex identity and torn loyalties. She is currently on the National Theatre's Step Change Programme and is championing diverse leadership in cultural institutions as one of 30 "Leaders of Tomorrow", a training course led by The Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme.

"Sumner is a painstakingly fair writer." **Manchester Theatre Awards**

"The beauty of Sumner's work is...the astute nature of the depth of her writing." **Lancashire Life**



Call Me Unique

Call Me Unique is a Birmingham-based singer/songwriter heavily influenced by jazz, soul and the forgotten art of jazz scat-singing. She combines these elements with modern rap, beautiful melodies and soulful, thought-provoking lyrics, delivered over her subtle guitar arrangements. Described as merging the sounds of Ed Sheeran's 'loop pedal' style and Ella Fitzgerald-inspired scatting, with hints of idols Lisa Lopes and Lauryn Hill.

"1 to Watch." **BBC 1Xtra**

Call Me Unique is an artist "who doesn't need to shout to be heard". **Birmingham Review**



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The Synergi Collaborative Centre is a five year national programme, funded by Lankelly Chase, to transform the realities and narratives of ethnic inequalities in severe mental illness and multiple disadvantage. Project partners are: Professor Kamaldeep Bhui, Queen Mary University of London, Professor James Nazroo, the University of Manchester and Joy Francis, Words of Colour Productions.

Find out more

synergicollaborativecentre.co.uk

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Join the conversation online

#SynergiStories

Become a member of The Synergi Network

The Synergi Network will be launched in 2018. It will meet six times a year and is open to all interested parties, including members of the public, and will provide a thinking space to inform, engage and share ideas, learning and solutions. If you are interested in being part of The Synergi Network, or want to know more, please email kristoffer@synergicollaborativecentre.co.uk to register your interest.

PROJECT PARTNERS



The University of Manchester



FUNDED BY

Lankelly Chase