

Elders Project

Transitions through and beyond Secure Care

2018

Context

What is the Elders Project?

The Elders Project is a Trust initiative supported by the SCC REACH OUT Equalities Task & Finish Group chaired by Dr Kenney-Herbert. The project was approved via the Dragons' Den process and emerged from a response to the literature about the disadvantage of black African-Caribbean service users within mental health settings. Whilst the initial target cohort was Afro-Caribbean service users, the project could benefit service users from any background and thus wider inclusion is encouraged.

Project Rational

As a result of research conducted through data analysis, literary studies and direct patient feedback (300 Voices Project), it has been evidenced that long-term stays in hospital can lead to:

- Feelings of disempowerment,
- Vulnerability,
- Perceived lack of support in the community,
- Low self-esteem, and
- Discharge related anxiety.

“Feedback from 300 voices and literary papers highlight the importance of positive relationships and social networks in the discharge process.”

Feedback from 300 voices and literary papers highlight the importance of positive relationships and social networks in the discharge process. The absences of such connections were associated with a range of issues; social isolation and problematic family relationships were named as specific re-emerging stressors when discharged. In contrast, healthy social networks prevented social isolation. Recovery-focused social groups and relationships are proven vital for desistance from substance use, crime and readmission. In communities where the stigma towards mental health is prominent and community support is limited this presents an additional disadvantage to service users' journey of recovery post-discharge and prolonged length of stay. Social exclusion is a recurring theme especially in BME service users due to cultural variants; and particularly for young black men who are frequently overrepresented in secure services.

The Demographic

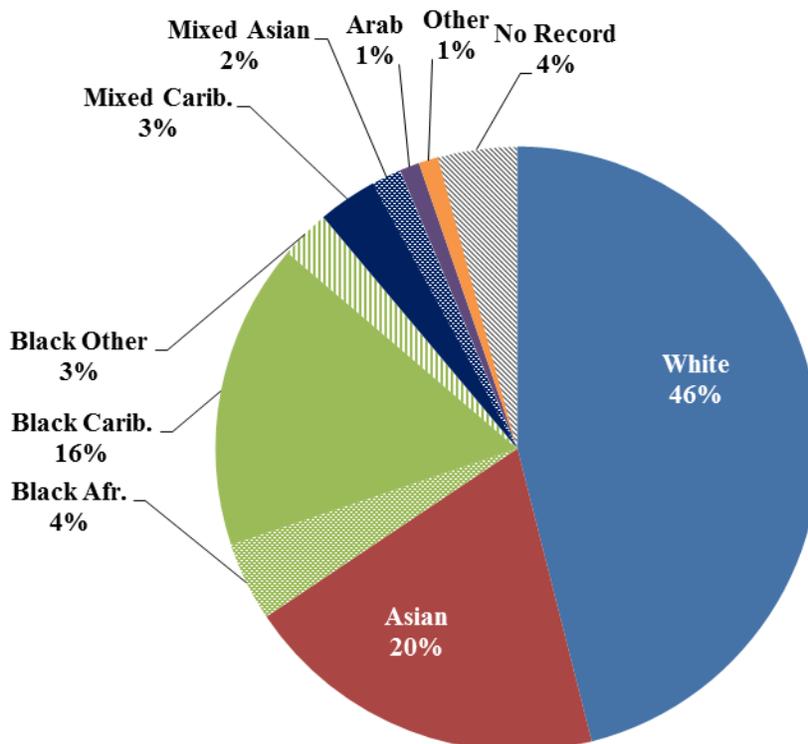
This is significant for service users of this particular demographic where stigma towards mental health is present in their communities. Evidence & Feedback from 300 voices, Overrepresentation within secure settings, Users value more integration with Elders.

According to data acquired in Oct 2017, of the 189 men in SCC at that time, the demographic profile was as presented in Table 1 and the graph in Figure 1. The breakdown of ethnic origins within each of the broader ethnic categories is presented in Appendix 1.



Table 1. *The number of male service users in SCC, broken down by ethnic origin. This data is correct as of October 2017.*

	White Asian		Black		Mixed Race		Arab	Other	No Rec
Male SCC	87	37	44		9		2	2	8
			Black Afr.	Black Carib.	White & Carib.	White & Asian			
			8	31	6	3			



Social exclusion is a recurring theme especially in BME service users due to cultural variants; and particularly for young black men who are frequently overrepresented in secure services.

Of those BME service users within SCC it is demonstrated that there is a large overrepresentation of Black Caribbean men with 31 of the 44 Black men within SCC being of Black Caribbean descent.

Figure 1. *The percentage of male service users in SCC within each ethnic origin. This data is correct as of October 2017.*

The Initial Screen

Further to discussion at MCG in Dec 2017, an initial screen was conducted by asking the care teams which service users may benefit from participation in the Elders Project. This is prior to future service user consultation and engagement.

Between 19/12/17 – 12/01/18, across Tamarind, Reaside and Hillis Lodge, ten clinical teams provided names of their service users who, they felt, would benefit from the Elders Project. Of the 189 men in SCC, 41 (21.7%) were identified as suitable for the Elders project. The demographic profile of these men is presented in Table 2 and Figure 2.

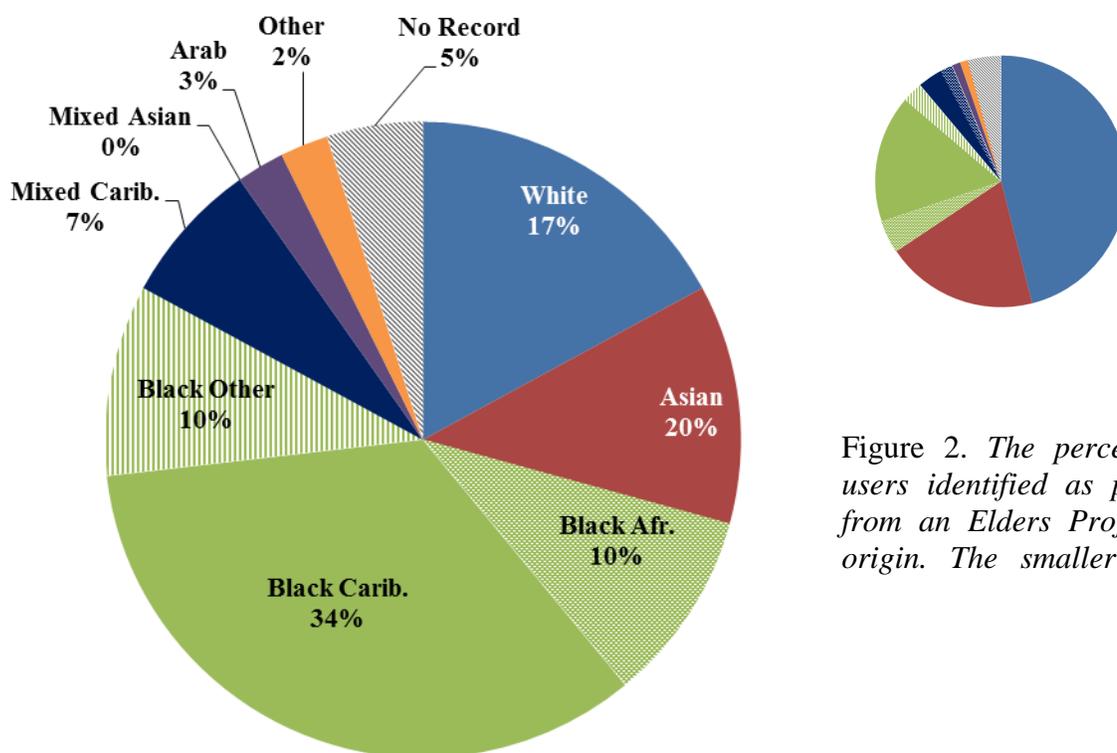


Figure 2. The percentage of male service users identified as people likely to benefit from an Elders Project within each ethnic origin. The smaller graph represents the

	White	Asian	Black	Mixed Race	Arab	Other	No Rec
Male SCC	7	5	22	3	1	1	2
			Black Afr.	Black Carib.	Black Other	White & Carib.	White & Asian
			4	14	4	3	0

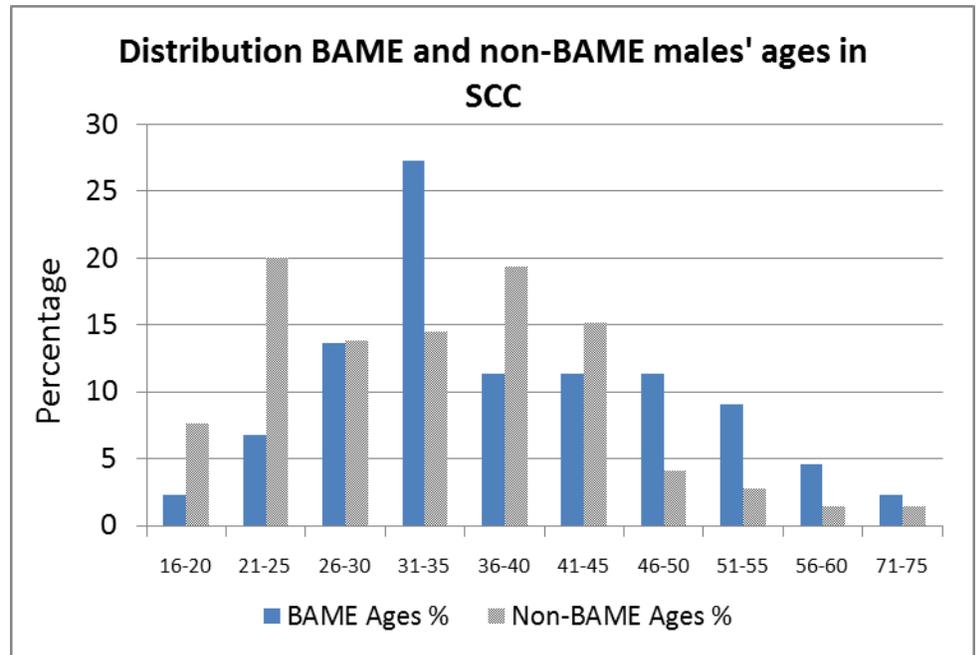
Table 2. The number of male service users identified as people likely to benefit from an Elders Project, broken down by ethnic origin.

Tamarind Centre Pilot

As demonstrated in Figure 3 there is a greater representation of 31-35 year old BME males relative to their non-BME counterparts in Secure and Complex Care.

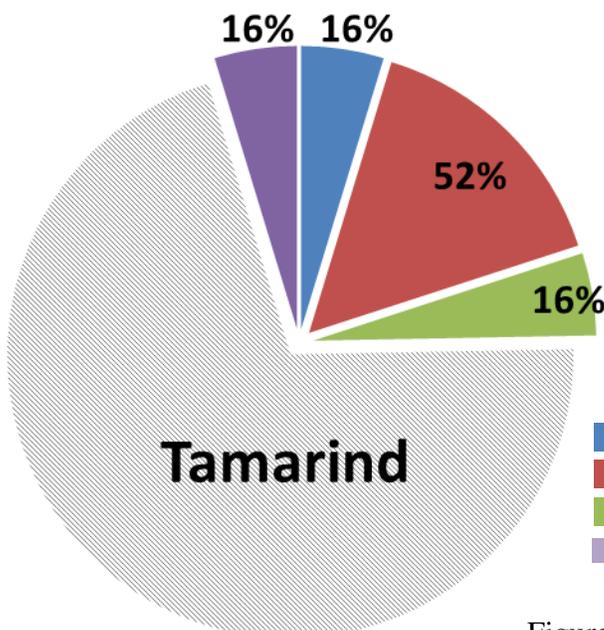
For the purpose of the Elders Project pilot the initial cohort will focus on young men within of Black British Caribbean descent at the Tamarind Centre.

Figure 3. *Distribution BAME and non-BAME males' ages in SCC*



	Black / Black British - African	Black / Black British - Caribbean	Black / Black British - Other	Mixed - White & Black Caribbean	Total
SCC	8	31	5	6	50
Reaside	3	14	1	2	20
Tamarind	4	13	4	4	25
Hillis Lodge	1	4	0	0	5
Ardenleigh	1	2	0	0	3

Table 3. *Comparison of BME ethnic minorities across SCC sites*



Tamarind Centre Ethnicities

Figure 4 displays the breakdown of Black men within the Tamarind Centre. Noticeable the number of Caribbean males is much higher than that of black African men.

With the demonstrated overrepresentation of black Caribbean men the Tamarind Centre has been selected as a recommended focus for the initial pilot; and has been endorsed by Clinical Care Teams at the site.

- Black / Black British – African (BA)
- Black / Black British – Caribbean (AC)
- Black / Black British – Other
- Mixed- White and Black Caribbean

Figure 4. *Distribution of ethnic minorities for Tamarind Centre*

The Elders Project

The Elders Project was initiated to offer a proactive approach to supporting service users during their recovery journey with a specific focus on the difficult period of transition and discharge. The Elders project will first be introduced as a pilot intended for elected service users in Secured Services at the Tamarind Centre.

Why Community Elders?

Volunteer 'Elders' will be identified who will have strong family ties and individual skills and influence in their respective communities within the local area, who are willing to share this with patients in the SCC directorate. Bringing this wealth of culture and positive life experience into a forensic setting provides hope for recovery within a community overrepresented and 'blocked' in secure mental health settings.

What will happen?

A cohort of Community Elders will be recruited from Faith, Sports and Music backgrounds to support the selected service users during their admission in Secure Care. Elders will be providing support in a range of methods including 1:1 support and group socials. Support with community integration and involvement, including service users' period of transition from hospital to discharge into the community.

Initial visits will be for a maximum of 60 minutes duration on a weekly basis for a period of 6 weeks which will then be reviewed and evaluated by the Elders project team.



Where are we now?

- A bespoke "Pathways To Success" recruitment scheme has been developed with W.A.V.E team.
- Outreach work in the community to Seniors/Elders and collating expressions of interest for recruitment and registration of volunteers
- Development of program framework and policies

Outcomes:

- Build emotional resilience
- Self-actualization
- Improved life choices
- Reduced disproportionality
- Reduce stigma
- Elders contribution to patient mental health recovery



Next Steps

- Elders/Seniors program to Tamarind
- A cohort of Community Elders will be recruited as volunteers.
- Matching Elder to Service User
- Hospital Visits to elected patients
- Executive Directors Support raising the profile of the pilot
- Transition & Discharge
- Evaluation framework