

The Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership (CVSL) based at The Open University is undertaking a research project on the leadership of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups based in Milton Keynes. The study explores how BME leaders engage and collaborate with service providers (such as the Police, MK Council, the NHS, Community Action and MK Community Foundation). This study follows a 2021 scoping research project that identified four types of engagements. They include BME leaders who are **Fully-Engaged**; and those who are less so, ranging from the **Seldom-Heard**, **Seldom-Asked** to **Not-Yet-Engaged**.

Dr Fidele Mutwarasibo leads the project. The other team members are Prof Siv Vangen and Dr Carol Jacklin-Jarvis. The team would like to meet and speak to BME leaders who see (or identify) themselves based on the typology outlined above as not fully engaged. They include the **Seldom-Heard** (*invited to meetings by service providers but not listened to*), the **Seldom-Asked** (*not invited or allowed to engage and collaborate with service providers*) and the **Not-Yet-Engaged** (*leaders of newly formed networks and potentially not yet known to the service providers*). The interviews will be held virtually in line with the currently approved Covid-19 protocols. The team is conscious that technology and know-how can be limiting factors in web-based communications and would be happy to discuss these challenges with BME leaders who would like to contribute to the research and work out how to overcome these challenges to facilitate their participation.

You can reach out to the team by email via fidele.mutwarasibo@open.ac.uk.

