

Hi Peter,

I trust you are well. I think you are more than justified to be angry and appalled at the DRE's attempt to hijack and subsequently undermine your excellent RECC programme. I have been successfully delivering your programme in Tower Hamlets since last Sept and last Monday to Newham localities. I am very happy with your programme and am confident that with my co-trainers I deliver it to the best of my ability, and as you know the service user perspective is greatly valued and last week reduced to nurses to tears.

I uphold the principles and aims/objectives of the programme, and ultimately I want the situation to change positively for BME service users' experiences of MH.

It is because of this that I recently decided to become an Ambassador for DRE, which as I understand it has a bigger remit than just M H, like housing, education, employment etc, tackling racism across the services. This I think can only be a good thing.

As far as the other inferior programme is concerned, I agree they should change its name to disassociate it from your programme. You and Premila have not spent years working hard to have it rubbished and tarnished, nor would your trainees appreciate the undermining of their involvement and training. As you know I have been able through you, to use my S U experience positively, and to offer hope and vision of the possibilities to living life, not merely existing, and having a good quality of life when recovering/recovered from mental illness, especially for BME people, despite the racism which we still have to challenge.

Please rest assured that you have my support, and won't condone the other training, which although seems to be part of DRE, the Ambassador programme does not roll any of the programmes. Those who have done both training programmes, agree yours is superior and have been left disappointed and confused, especially when it comes to being commissioned, as to which programme to deliver. We as SUs, can't afford to have our sanity compromised by confusion, and if there are more or different programmes to come, they should be original and not knock-down versions of yours. Ultimately DRE has lost the plot and have forgotten why they were formed - people have died, Rocky Bennett died, let his death and others not be in vain.

God Bless, Doreen.

(Doreen Joseph)