



Shining a light on problems facing minority communities
Policy research

Equinox Consulting,
Cynet House
12 -14 Sydenham Road
Croydon CR9 2ET

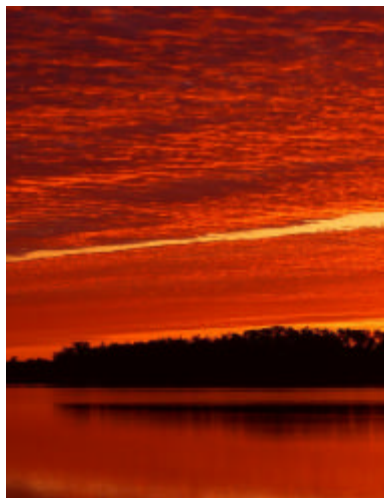
Tel: 020 8680 5678

info@equinoxconsulting.net
www.equinoxconsulting.net



Shining a light on problems facing minority communities

Policy research



Minority and excluded communities in Britain still face a lot of problems arising out of disadvantage but often the solution to these problems are not clear; there is a certain advocacy and understanding of these communities that is required to craft positive action oriented solutions for these problems

Minority and excluded communities in Britain still face a lot of problems arising out of disadvantage but often the solution to these problems are not clear when viewed using objective criteria alone; there is a certain advocacy and understanding of these communities that is required to deal with the inequalities and to craft positive action oriented solutions for these, seemingly, intractable problems.

Our approach to research is based on adopting a methodology that enables often **'hard to reach'** communities to feel comfortable in discussing their problems and issues, and speaking frankly which allows them to point us to solutions that are as practical as they are sustainable. We are able undertake these assignments because of our expertise in economic and social development issues and because of the several years experience working with these communities. Our approach is at all times rigorous but we are able to temper this with the sensitivity required to arrive at workable solutions.

We always adopt a judicious mix of approaches combining desk and field work as appropriate and take great pains in framing the questions after extensive back ground research. We ensure that we consult and hold discussions with all relevant stakeholders on these assignments

Equinox Consulting is an innovative, dynamic and specialist management consultancy promoting social and economic advancement for disadvantaged communities through management consultancy, training and research services in community development, enterprise generation strategies and employment initiatives.

Over the past 28 years, we have worked with community organisations and individuals primarily from African, Caribbean and Asian communities and have executed projects that affect inner city, black and ethnic minority, refugee and other excluded communities.

Please find attached our project sheet which provides more information on projects we have carried out on this service.

You may also visit our website at www.equinoxconsulting.net for more information on other services we offer such as

- facilitation of strategic awaydays
- policy research on minority issues
- evaluations, reviews and appraisals
- strategic business and delivery plans
- feasibility studies for community facilities
- roles and responsibilities of board trustees
- management training and leadership courses
- capacity building and community consultations
- enterprise skills training and promotion strategies
- employment skills training and placement initiatives



Policy Research on minority issues

Policy Research



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Black Training and Enterprise Group

Research into the state of African Caribbean Voluntary and Community Organisations in the UK

Governance Hub

Research into the support needs of Black and minority Ethnic Chairs persons of community and voluntary organisations so as to design capacity building tools to assist them.

Greater London Authority

The State of Race Equality in London. This research examines the extent to which public bodies are implementing the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 and is meant to inform the Mayor's conference to be held on 25th March 2006 at City Hall.

Octavia Housing and Care

Research into the employment needs of their tenants with a view of setting up an employment action project that will involve the major suppliers of goods and services to the organisation

Ethnic Mutual

Development of guidelines for the making of sharia compliant loans

Southwark Council

A review of the voluntary sector provision in relation to BME communities of interest. This involved discussions with a variety of stakeholders in the borough to include community organisations, capacity building organisations, council officials and focus groups with community leaders. Benchmarking of boroughs with similar characteristics was implemented.

Home Office

Research into the recruitment, retention and progression of ethnic minority staff at the Home Office. We worked on this project as part of a team led by HOSTPolicy Research.

Lambeth Council

Research into the views of young people aged between 13 and 19, their interests and career aspirations. This involved conducting interviews with over 1000 young people in the borough and focus groups were organised in four deprived wards. This was used to determine policy on structured activities for young people after school.

Bexley Council Economic Development Unit

Research into the barriers to employment for young ethnic minority people living in four wards in Bexley. The research was an integral part of an SRB programme to regenerate the area. It involved 200 interviews with unemployed people and 30 interviews with employers in the area. An action plan for minimising and eliminating some of these barriers was drawn up. The results of the research will formed the basis of a programme targeted at these young people.

Focus Central London

Survey of ethnic minority businesses in Lambeth and Southwark. Equinox Consulting carried out the fieldwork for this research programme that sought to identify growth potential amongst ethnic minority businesses and to what extent they utilised the services of Business Links. The fieldwork was undertaken in several phases: in depth interviews with 30 representative businesses, 200 telephone interviews, and 2 focus groups.

Brixton City Challenge

A study into the business needs and opportunities in the Brixton Challenge Area. This involved a survey of key operators and upon thorough analysis of the interviews and discussions, the development of an action oriented strategy to accelerate the implementation of important projects.

AZTEC

Research into the needs of young people with behavioural problems who were unsuccessful on the YT Scheme and the design of an appropriate programme to meet their needs.

African Caribbean Banking Project

Demand survey into the setting up of an African-Caribbean Bank in Britain. A total of 750 individuals and 200 businesses were interviewed in four London Boroughs with a higher than average proportion of Black people in the population. Their views were solicited on a whole range of issues from their banking preferences to their expenditure patterns in order to set up a bank to satisfy their needs.

