



Hard to reach and hard to hear: determining the health and social needs of asylum seekers and refugees in Hull, UK

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Introduction

- Why should Hull be concerned about asylum seekers?
- The legacy of William Wilberforce
- Very brief overview of UK asylum system
- How to determine health needs



Methodological issues

- Asylum seekers hard to find - but refugees even more so
- Many and diverse stakeholders
- Methodological difficulties
 - Making contact
 - Interpretation
 - Meeting NHS planning deadlines



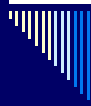
What we did

- Interpreter supported focus groups with asylum seekers leading to ...
- Depth interviews with individual seekers
- Interviews with service providers
- Interviews with people who interpret in health consultations



What we found

- Experiences of the NHS including expectations of healthcare
- Issues around the need for interpreters and the interpreters own experiences
- Mental health issues and how they are sometimes poorly handled by professionals
- Poor housing
- Public attitudes
- Destitution



Reflection

- Sanctuary
- Positive commitment of local NHS and partners
- Needs Assessment done in a more systematic way than is the norm in the UK NHS
- Development of qualitative research skills within a committed local health partnership is needed



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