

Box 1: Focus group topic guide

1. General opinions on the collection of ethnicity

- Do you think accurate recording is important?
- What do you think it can be used for?
- Any objections/worries about providing this data?

2. Experiences of providing ethnicity information

- General discussion THEN Focus down on healthcare situations
- Does anyone know people who have been asked this in relation to 'health research'?
- Does anyone know if the Cancer clinics ask these questions?

3. Categories used in practice (provide examples on sheets)

- Census
- Hospital admissions
- GP data
- Other
- What categories would you like – how would you prefer to describe yourself

4. What about language, Religion, Culture:

- Do people ask, do you offer this information, do you mind.
- Are there problems with 'stereotypes' (Explain)

5. How should this information be collected (*if it has to be: Note – the 'Race Relations Act' says that public services should so they can 'combat ethnic inequality'*)

- Would you recommend the routine collection at hospital/GP/other?
- When would be the best time to collect this data (admission/follow-up after you've been to the hospital once)?
- How should people ask you – and what should they tell you?
- Has anyone in the group been asked to take part in 'research' at the hospital or their GP? (i.e. medical research) – Can you tell us about it?

Closing comments

- Does it make a difference in the case of a disease like **cancer** – or is it the same for any health matter?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about?