

Key Tips for Staff



Health and
Social Care

What will be asked?

1. **What is your Country of birth?** Eg
Northern Ireland / Poland / Romania
2. **What is your ethnic group?** Eg
Chinese / Irish Traveller / Mixed
Ethnic Group



ETHNIC MONITORING GUIDANCE

How do I ask a service user/patient about their ethnic background?

How do I reassure the service user/patient?

A simple explanation as to why you are asking the question should alleviate any concerns:

- It is important to reassure the service user/patient that the questions you are asking are standard and are directed to all service users/patients regardless of their age, ability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.
- You should highlight that the information is for health purposes and not for immigration, welfare benefit checks or for any other reason.
- Reassure service users/patients the information will make Health and Social Care fair for all and help us treat them more effectively.
- Service users/patients should be allowed to select the category that they believe is most appropriate to them when answering the questions and health professionals must not pick the category for them.
- Service users/patients must understand what is being asked of them and the health professional must understand what information is being obtained from service users/patients. It is therefore important that an interpreter is available when required.

Further information on Ethnic Monitoring Guidance is available in the DHSSPS
"Guide to the Ethnic Monitoring of Service Users in Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland".