

## *Working Together to Improve Your Care*

### **Collecting information about ethnicity from patients in Lothian**

**We want to give services to everyone based on their health needs.**

**To be sure our services are right for everyone we need to know who uses our services.**

What does ethnic group mean and why do you need to know mine?

**Everyone belongs to an ethnic group. Ethnic group describes how you see yourself and is a mixture of culture, religion, skin colour, language and the origins of your family. Some diseases and medical conditions affect some ethnic groups more than others. By knowing how many people from different ethnic groups there are in the local population, we can plan our services better.**

Why do we need this information?

**We need this information for two reasons.**

**First, while you are our patient we want to provide you with the best quality care. If we know about the ethnic group you feel you belong to, doctors, nurses and other staff caring for you will be better able to provide care that meets your needs.**

**Second, so that Lothian NHS Board can make sure:**

- **Everyone is being treated fairly**
- **Everyone has equal access to health care**
- **Services meet everyone's needs**

**The information used for this second reason does not have your name, address or health service numbers attached, so you cannot be identified.**

Do I have to give this information?

**You can refuse to give this information.**

**All information you give is confidential and managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means we can only use the information that you give to us.**