



Healthier Communities Select Committee

Report title: Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review and Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme - Update

Date: 2nd November 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

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Outline and recommendations

This report provides an update to the Committee. The report includes updates on:

- Implementation of the recommendations from the Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR).
- Implementation of the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme for 2022-24.

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

- Note and comment on the progress made in the implementation of recommendations from BLACHIR and the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

7 June 2022 – Lewisham launch of the BLACHIR report

27 July 2022 – Discussion of BLACHIR opportunities for action and their implementation by Lewisham Health and Social Care Leaders

7th September 2022 - Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR): Update to Healthier Communities Select Committee

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Healthier Communities Select Committee with an update on the implementation of both the opportunities for action from the Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) and the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme 2022-24.
- 1.2. Lewisham Council and Birmingham City Council launched the BLACHIR report in May 2020 as a ground-breaking approach to addressing the deficit in historic approaches to addressing health inequalities specifically for Black African and Black Caribbean communities. Following the launch of the final BLACHIR report in July 2022, the opportunities for action being implemented have been incorporated into the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme 2022-24.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Committee are recommended to:
 - Note and comment on the progress made in the implementation of recommendations from BLACHIR and the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The Lewisham Corporate Strategy 2022-26 outlines the following priority areas:
 - Cleaner and greener
 - A strong local economy
 - Quality housing
 - Children and young people
 - Safer communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.2. Within the Health and Wellbeing priority area, the following objective has been set out:
 - We will learn from our Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review, aiming to mitigate and ultimately end, structural racism, and discrimination as a driver of health inequalities.

The contents of this report link directly to this Corporate Strategic objective.

4. Background

- 4.1. The Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) was a two-year partnership between Lewisham Council and Birmingham City Council, to gather insights on health inequalities within Black African and Caribbean communities in Birmingham and Lewisham.
- 4.2. Seven key themes were outlined in the BLACHIR report for action alongside 39 opportunities for action. The seven key themes included the following:
 - Fairness, inclusion, and respect
 - Trust and transparency
 - Better data
 - Early interventions
 - Health checks and campaigns
 - Healthier behaviours
 - Health literacy
- 4.3. The Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme 2022 – 24 is the vehicle for delivery of the opportunities for action identified in the BLACHIR report.

5. Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)

- 5.1. Over the course of the last year, specific opportunities for action from the BLACHIR report have been the focus of work within the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme. These will be outlined in section 6 below.
- 5.2. Local, regional, and national work that is already fulfilling opportunities for action has also been mapped to help identify areas where future local action will be required.
- 5.3. To date, 2 opportunities for action are being fully progressed from existing initiatives, 13 opportunities for action have activity that has started to progress them (some of which are part of the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme) and 24 opportunities for action do not have any action mapped against them at present.
- 5.4. To support the implementation of opportunities for action locally, a community partner has been appointed to work with the public health team to foster better co-production. The community partner appointed is the Social Inclusion Recovery Group (SIRG), a local, Black-led community organisation.
- 5.5. As part of mobilisation activity, SIRG have actively attended community events to engage with residents and community members about the BLACHIR report.
- 5.6. SIRG have designed and circulated flyers to local businesses and schools about the report. A social media page and additional social media content has been shared via various online platforms and in person, including community groups, schools and black establishments. SIRG are also working on a podcast with a studio based within Lewisham and a pilot for the podcast took place on 20th October 2023.
- 5.7. SIRG have held two community group meetings, with approximately 30 people attending each session, to discuss the BLACHIR report and hear local views. This has been a in depth task due to the amount of information being shared and the emotional complexity of extracting traumatic stories with people sharing their lived and living experiences. SIRG are now looking at supervision options to support their workers with this work.

- 5.8. An advisory group of six Voluntary Community Sector organisations has also been established that SIRG has coordinated. The VCS groups members have provided feedback and support to engage residents. In recent months, this has included activity to identify which opportunities for action that are yet to be progressed should be a focus for the coming year.

6. Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme 2022-24

- 6.1. The Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme 2022-24 aims to strengthen local health & wellbeing partnerships across the system and communities to enable equitable access, experience, and outcomes for Lewisham residents, particularly those from Black and other racially minoritised communities.

- 6.2. The key objectives of the Programme are:

- System leadership, understanding, action and accountability for health equity
- Empowered communities at the heart of decision making and delivery
- Identifying and scaling-up what works
- Establish foundation for new Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Prioritisation and implementation of the 39 opportunities for action from Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)

- 6.3. There are eight concurrent and intersecting workstreams:

- 1) Equitable preventative, community, and acute physical and mental health services
- 2) Health equity teams
- 3) Community development
- 4) Communities of practice
- 5) Workforce toolbox
- 6) Maximising data
- 7) Evaluation
- 8) Programme enablement and oversight

- 6.4. The programme is monitored by and reports into the Health and Wellbeing Board and Lewisham Care Partnership Board. Updates on progress with workstreams 1, 2, 3 and 8 (where most activity has taken place to date) are outlined below.

6.5. Workstream 1: Equitable preventative, community and acute physical and mental health services

- 6.6. The aim of this workstream is to design, test and scale up new models of service provision that achieve equitable access, experience and outcomes for all.

- 6.7. The objectives of the workstream are to:

- Embed equity and community voice within service review, design and development
- Identify and scale-up what works to achieve health equity

- 6.8. The projects being delivered by this workstream are:

- 1) Specific partnership projects:
 - Population Health Fellows – recruited to address inequalities in clinical outcomes
 - Addressing inequalities in elective surgery waiting lists
 - Improving recording of special category data
 - Specialist Smoke Free Pregnancy Midwife

- 2) Piloting / identifying and scaling up solutions:
 - Up! Up! Tailored weight management service for Black African and Black Caribbean residents
- 3) Implementation of BLACHIR opportunities for action:
 - The specific opportunities for action addressed within this workstream are:

Opportunity for action	Project
Number 7: Improve data collection by specific ethnicity in maternity and early years services considering the differences in ethnic background and nationality. Work with professionals who represent the ethnic minority groups to ensure a sensitive approach when collecting data.	The 'Improving recording of special category data' project being led by Lewisham and Greenwich Trust.
Number 35: Ensure prevention services are fair, appropriate and consider the needs of Black African and Black Caribbean populations, and there is proactive work to address issues with health literacy.	The Up!Up! culturally tailored weight management service, which is Tier 2 prevention service that specifically considers the needs of Black African and Black Caribbean populations in Lewisham.

6.9. Workstream 2: Health Equity Teams

6.10. The aim of this workstream is to create place-based teams to provide leadership for system change and community-led action.

6.11. The objectives of this workstream are to:

- Develop Primary Care Network (PCN) leadership and accountability for health equity.
- Understanding and determining neighbourhood and community needs and priorities (informed by data alongside community engagement as per BLACHIR work).
- Empowering communities to participate in service design and delivery.

6.12. The projects being delivered by this workstream are:

- 1) The two-year Health Equity Fellowship Programme which is aiming to develop local system leaders of the future to address health inequalities. This development journey has involved the recruitment of 6 PCN Health Equity Fellows (one per PCN) who have received in-house training and masters-level modular training by King's College London (KCL).
- 2) A local network of six Health Equity Teams, consisting of the Fellow and partnered community organisation (see workstream 3) to lead neighbourhood-level community engagement (community development, prevention, and health promotion). Six Health Equity Teams are now in place across Lewisham, several of which have a Black-led community organisation partnered with the Health Equity Fellow. Health Equity Teams have developed specific projects that will be implemented until 2024.
- 3) Implementation of BLACHIR opportunities for action:
 - The specific opportunities for action addressed within this workstream are:

Opportunity for action	Project
Number 27: Work with Black African and Black Caribbean communities and organisations to cocreate and deliver culturally appropriate and accessible support on positive health behaviours, including health literacy training, social prescribing initiatives and group interventions.	The Lewisham Health Equity Teams include Black-led organisation that have been commissioned to co-create health equity initiatives.
Number 29: Provide long-term investment for trusted Black African and Black Caribbean grass roots organisations such as faith groups, schools, voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver community-led interventions.	The Lewisham Health Equity Teams include Black-led organisation that have been commissioned to co-deliver health equity initiatives.
Number 34: Ensure that the engagement of Black African and Black Caribbean communities is meaningful and valued. This should include direct engagement and collaboration with representative organisations that is done in a way which is respectful, transparent, and accessible, and considers and values participants' time and commitments.	The Lewisham Health Equity Teams include Black-led organisation that have been commissioned to co-create and co-deliver health equity initiatives.
Number 35: Ensure prevention services are fair, appropriate and consider the needs of Black African and Black Caribbean populations, and there is proactive work to address issues with health literacy.	The Lewisham Health Equity Teams include Black-led organisation that have been commissioned to co-create health equity initiatives that consider the needs of Black African and Black Caribbean populations.

6.13. Workstream 3: Community Development

6.14. The aim of this workstream is to develop infrastructure to empower communities and delivery community-led service design and delivery.

6.15. The objectives of the workstream are to:

- Develop sustained community voice and lived-experience input to service review and design
- Build up community-based capacity and skill in service design and delivery
- Build synergy between existing community development efforts across Lewisham system

6.16. The projects being delivered by this workstream are:

- 1) Community Connections Lewisham (CCL) Community Facilitators
- 2) Community organisation commissioned to form Health Equity Teams and to

recruit Community Champions. Six community organisations have been commissioned to form health equity teams and recruit community champions:

- Red Ribbon Living Well
- Action for Community Development
- Therapy 4 Healing
- Holistic Well Women
- 360 Lifestyle Network and Mabadaliko
- Social Life and Downham Dividend Society

- 3) Support for the Lewisham Black Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Expo to showcase black voluntary community sector stakeholders and their role in delivering health and well-being services within Lewisham.

A second Black VCS Expo event has taken place on 13th October 2023 and was organised by Mabadaliko CIC in collaboration with the Lewisham Black Voluntary and Community Sector Network and supported by Lewisham Public Health to showcase black voluntary community sector stakeholders and their role in delivering health and well-being services within Lewisham. The event offered the opportunity to engage with Black charity leaders, social entrepreneurs, public health, council officials and organisations involved in delivering health and well-being to Lewisham's black residents to support in addressing health inequalities. Initial feedback from attendees has been very positive and the VCS Expo planning group will come together to discuss outcomes and focus on the evaluation of this work.

- 4) Implementation of BLACHIR opportunities for action

- The specific opportunities for action addressed within this workstream are:

Opportunity for action	Project
<p>Number 29: Provide long-term investment for trusted Black African and Black Caribbean grass roots organisations such as faith groups, schools, voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver community-led interventions.</p>	<p>The commissioned community organisations within Health Equity Teams will be co-delivering health equity initiatives with community champions that they recruit.</p>
<p>Number 34: Ensure that the engagement of Black African and Black Caribbean communities is meaningful and valued. This should include direct engagement and collaboration with representative organisations that is done in a way which is respectful, transparent, and accessible, and considers and values participants' time and commitments.</p>	<p>The commissioned community organisations within Health Equity Teams will be co-delivering health equity initiatives with community champions that they recruit.</p> <p>Support for the Black VCS Expo allows meaningful engagement of Black-led organisations in the borough that are involved in delivering health and wellbeing interventions.</p>

6.17. **Workstream 8: Programme Enablement and Oversight**

6.18. The aim of this workstream is to support and coordinate across workstreams in the Programme.

6.19. The objectives are to:

- Provide leadership & support for the programme.
- Coordination of community engagement activities
- Network governance

6.20. As part of this workstream, Naomi Alexander joined the team as a Health Inequalities Project Officer on the 26th of June to provide support to the Programme.

7. Financial implications

7.1. The resourcing of the health inequalities and health equity plan has been identified from contributions from Health and Wellbeing Board partners, namely South East London ICB and Lewisham Council, over a 2-year period.

8. Legal implications

8.1. There are no significant legal implications of this report.

9. Equalities implications

9.1. This report specifically outlines work that aims to tackle health inequalities in Black African and Black Caribbean communities in Birmingham and Lewisham.

10. Climate change and environmental implications

10.1. There are no climate change or environmental implications of this report.

11. Crime and disorder implications

11.1. There are no crime and disorder implications of this report.

12. Health and wellbeing implications

12.1. The content of this report outlines the health and wellbeing implications arising from the work described.

13. Report author and contact

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