



## Healthier Communities Select Committee

### **Report title: Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review – Update**

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** N/A

**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).

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

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

## **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 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, 6 opportunities for action are being fully progressed from existing initiatives, 20 opportunities for action have activity that has started to progress them (13 of which are part of the Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Programme Section 6) and 13 opportunities for action do not have any action mapped against them at present.
- 5.4. To support with the implementation of opportunities for action locally, a community partner has been commissioned 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- <https://www.sirglondon.org/>
- 5.5. A Senior Project Manager has been recruited to drive implementation of the recommendations from the review, working closely with the community partner and wider stakeholders to embed BLACHIR within the system.
- 5.6. SIRG have actively attended community events to engage with residents and community members about the BLACHIR report. The robust stakeholder engagement also includes a monthly BLACHIR Community Forum providing a safe space for community members to take part in discussion on a different theme within the review to discuss the report to hear local views on its impact, which in turn is to be shared with the system.
- 5.7. 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 have developed a podcast which has aired episodes on online sharing platforms, that stimulate valuable feedback and discussion.
- 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. This has also included activity to monitor progress of prioritised opportunities for action that have been identified by the advisory group.
- 5.9. The Public Health Senior Project Manager and Public Health Commissioning Manager have supported the delivery of targeted and culturally appropriate screening services for older adults in partnership with local VCS services to maximise the opportunity for awareness raising and uptake.
- 5.10. A dedicated BLACHIR stand was included at London's first Black Health Inequalities Summit held in March, SIRG and Public Health supported this event with the BLACHIR report receiving regional recognition.

## **6. Financial implications**

6.1. 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.

## **7. Legal implications**

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

## **8. Equalities implications**

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

## **9. Climate change and environmental implications**

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

## **10. Crime and disorder implications**

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

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

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

## **12. Report author and contact**

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