



Health and Wellbeing Board

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Health Inequalities Progress Update – Children & Young People and Adults

Date: 12th March 2020

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Dr Catherine Mbema, Director of Public Health, London Borough of Lewisham

Outline and recommendations

This report provides an update to the Board on the development of an action plan to address Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) health inequalities in Lewisham.

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Note the contents of this report and action plan
- Approve the planned actions identified for 2020/21 onwards.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

1. Summary

- 1.1. To provide an update to the Board on the development of an action plan to address Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) health inequalities in Lewisham, and to request Board approval for the planned actions for 2020/21 onwards.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Note the contents of this report and action plan
- Approve the planned actions identified for 2020/21 onwards.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required the creation of statutory Health and Wellbeing Boards in every upper tier local authority. By assembling key leaders from the local health and care system, the principle purpose of the Health and Wellbeing Boards is to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for local residents.
- 3.2. The activity of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is focussed on delivering the strategic vision for Lewisham as established in Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 3.3. The work of the Board directly contributes to the Council's new Corporate Strategy. Specifically *Priority 5 – Delivering and Defending: Health, Social Care and Support – Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.*

4. Background

- 4.1. In July 2018 the HWB agreed that the main area of focus for the Board should be tackling health inequalities, with an initial focus on health inequalities for BAME communities in Lewisham.
- 4.2. Following analysis undertaken by a sub group of the Board, three priority areas were identified through which the Board could play a significant role in addressing the widest

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gaps in BAME health inequalities. The areas identified were: mental health; obesity; and cancer.

- 4.3. At the November 2018 meeting of the Board it was agreed to frame the ongoing discussion concerning BAME health inequalities around these three themes and to actively engage the Lewisham BME Network in this process.
- 4.4. The Lewisham BME Network is a community development project, managed by the Stephen Charitable Lawrence Trust and funded by the London Borough of Lewisham. The Network is comprised of over 120 BAME stakeholder groups, all working to support Lewisham's BAME community organisations and the communities they serve. The Network includes a BAME Health subgroup which meets monthly.
- 4.5. Progress on actions taken to date have been presented at previous Health and Wellbeing Board meetings, with an initial focus of action on the area of mental health.
- 4.6. A draft action plan covering all three priority areas (cancer, obesity and mental health) was developed in July 2019 in response to a referral made by the Healthier Communities Select Committee.
- 4.7. At the November 2019 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, Board members agreed to further refine the draft action plan with the BME Network taking a co-production approach.

5. BAME Health Inequalities working group

- 5.1. A BAME health inequalities working group was established in January 2020 to provide a forum to refine and agree the action plan to address BAME health inequalities in Lewisham consisting of commitments from organisations represented at the Board and members of the BME Network.
- 5.2. The working group comprises of representatives of organisations that are members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with influence over health outcomes relating to obesity, cancer and mental health in BAME communities; and members of the BME Network.
- 5.3. The group has met twice since being established and have agreed a refined action plan. This plan can be found in the background papers of this report.

6. BAME Health Inequalities action plan development

- 6.1. The action plan contains 16 key actions that will work to address inequalities for BAME communities across the areas of mental health, cancer and obesity. The progress on each of these actions has been logged in the action plan and a RAG rating system is being applied to help track progress.
- 6.2. A cross cutting section of the action plan for all three priority areas will focus on community capacity building within BAME community groups and organisations. This section has been developed specifically in response to community feedback regarding the ability of BAME community groups to be a key part of addressing health inequalities and being equipped to participate in the commissioning cycle as appropriate. An important action within this section of the plan will be the commissioning of BAME community groups to gather community insights to inform the procurement of public health commissioned obesity services. This exercise will provide valuable learning for any further opportunities to build the capacity of local BAME community organisations to participate in the commissioning cycle.
- 6.3. The refined action plan was presented to a wider BME Network meeting in February 2020, giving Network members an opportunity to comment further on the plan and its

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development. The need for ongoing input and consultation on the plan with members of the Network was highlighted at this meeting and the development of a mechanism to enable this has been included as an action in the plan.

7. Monitoring and evaluation of the action plan

7.1. The progress of the plan in addressing health inequalities in cancer, obesity and mental health in BAME communities in Lewisham will be monitored using the following methods:

- A RAG rating system within the action plan
- Metrics within the existing Health and Wellbeing Board Indicator Dashboard and any monitoring mechanism developed as part of a new Health and Wellbeing strategy

7.2. In addition to this, working group members agreed that it would be beneficial to develop a number of community-generated metrics to gauge community response to the plan. The development of this metrics will be facilitated by members of the working group.

8. Financial implications

8.1. This report seeks approval for planned actions identified for 2021 onwards. The various areas of work within the action plan that are the responsibility of the Council will be met from existing revenue budgets in the Community Services and Children and Young People Directorates.

9. Legal implications

9.1. Members of the Board are reminded of their responsibilities to carry out statutory functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Activities of the Board include, but may not be limited to the following:

- To encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in the area to work in an integrated manner, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area.
- To provide such advice, assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purpose of encouraging the making of arrangements under Section 75 NHS Act 2006 in connection with the provision of such services.
- To encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health related services in its area to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- To prepare Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (as set out in Section 116 Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007).
- To give opinion to the Council on whether the Council is discharging its duty to have regard to any JSNA and any joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy prepared in the exercise of its functions.
- To exercise any Council function which the Council delegates to the Health and Wellbeing Board, save that it may not exercise the Council's functions under Section 244 NHS Act 2006.

10. Equalities implications

10.1. This report specifically aims to address health inequalities for particular ethnic groups in Lewisham, with race being one of the nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act (2010).

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11. Climate change and environmental implications

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

12. Crime and disorder implications

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

13. Health and wellbeing implications

13.1. Improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities is central to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This report directly aligns with these aims by outlining a plan of action to address health inequalities in Lewisham's BAME communities.

14. Background papers

14.1. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Health Inequalities Action Plan

15. Report author and contact

15.1. Dr Catherine Mbema, Catherine.mbema@lewisham.gov.uk

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