



Health and Wellbeing Board

Report title: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Health Inequalities Progress Update – COVID-19

Date: 3rd December 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 work of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) working group to address BAME health inequalities in Lewisham during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Note the contents of this report and updated action plan

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

1. Summary

- 1.1. To provide an update to the Board on the work of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) working group to address BAME health inequalities in Lewisham during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
 - Note the contents of this report and updated action plan

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

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- 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.
- 4.8. At the March 2020 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, a further draft of the action plan was approved by Board members with an agreement to return to the next Board meeting with monitoring metrics to capture progress and impact of completing actions within the plan.

5. BAME Health Inequalities working group and action plan updates

- 5.1. A BAME health inequalities working group has met since the March 2020 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting to oversee implementation of the action plan.
- 5.2. The working group started to meet on a fortnightly basis from April 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic but has moved back to meeting on a monthly basis as of September 2020.
- 5.3. The updated action plan can be seen in the Background papers, which logs the progress on actions since September 2020.

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

- 6.1. The partnership work continues between Lewisham Council and Birmingham City Council to share knowledge and resources, to support and inform the Birmingham and Lewisham Health Inequalities Review.
- 6.2. The aim of the partnership is to jointly undertake a series of reviews in order to explore in depth, the inequalities experienced by Black African and Black Caribbean groups and their drivers. The main objective of the review is to produce a joint final report, that brings together the findings from the advisory board, stakeholder events, online forum and all research, reviews and data analysis conducted by the review group throughout an 18 month period.
- 6.3. Overseeing this work are nine external advisory board members and elected members who bring a range of knowledge, skills and lived experience via their community networks and an external academic board that consists of a network of fifteen national academics.
- 6.4. As part of ongoing cycle of six weekly meetings, the external academic board met on the

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11th November to feedback to the review team, the findings of their research on the first topic – Racism and Discrimination role in health inequalities. This information will then be discussed at the External Advisory Board meeting on the 24th November 2020.

- 6.5. Progress and results of this partnership are reported in to the BAME health inequalities working group on a monthly basis.

7. BAME Health Inequalities Toolkit

- 7.1. A BAME Health Inequalities Toolkit has been developed to provide a data overview of existing health inequalities for different ethnic groups in Lewisham. This toolkit will present data in a user-friendly format that can be used by community members and will also inform data insights for the joint work with Birmingham.
- 7.2. The toolkit is being finalised with support from Health and Wellbeing Board partners to provide additional health related ethnicity data. Following this, the ambition is to publish the toolkit in line with the next topic cycle for the BLACHIR work in January 2020. The finalised toolkit will also be presented at the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. 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 its 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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