



Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board

Report title: Lewisham Health Inequalities update

Date: 8th September 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

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Outline and recommendations

This report provides an update to the Board on local work to tackle Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Health Inequalities in Lewisham.

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Note the contents of this report
- Note the updates to the Health Inequalities Toolkit
- Note the update approach to the proposed Health Inequalities Summit

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Board on local work to tackle Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Health Inequalities in Lewisham.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
 - Note the contents of this report
 - Note the updates to the Health Inequalities Toolkit
 - Note the update approach to the proposed Health Inequalities Summit

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 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Lewisham.
- 4.2. Following analysis undertaken by a sub group of the Board, three priority areas were

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identified through which the Board could play a significant role in addressing the widest gaps in ethnic health inequalities. The areas identified were: mental health; obesity; and cancer.

- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. At the November 2019 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, Board members agreed to further refine the draft action plan with the Lewisham Black and Minority Ethnic Network taking a co-production approach.
- 4.5. 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.
- 4.6. A Health Inequalities Toolkit and Health Inequalities Summit are being developed as part of this action plan.

5. Lewisham Health Inequalities and Health Equity Toolkit

- 5.1. A Health Inequalities Toolkit has been developed to provide a data overview of existing health inequalities Lewisham. The aim of this toolkit is to 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.
- 5.2. The development of the toolkit has taken a partnership approach to collate data from Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations.
- 5.3. The toolkit aims to give all Lewisham stakeholders:
 - An introduction to health inequalities
 - An overview of the health inequalities in Lewisham
 - An overview of what is happening to address health inequalities in Lewisham
 - Suggestions for further collaborative action to tackle health inequalities in Lewisham
- 5.4. This toolkit will be refreshed every other year alongside the publication of the Annual Public Health Report and Picture of Lewisham documents.
- 5.5. The toolkit will be published on the Lewisham Observatory website:
<https://www.observatory.lewisham.gov.uk/>

6. Lewisham Health Inequalities Summit

- 6.1. A Lewisham Health Inequalities Summit has been proposed to take place in the autumn 2021 to take stock of what we have achieved to date in terms of addressing health inequalities in Lewisham and to plan for a system-wide approach going forward.
- 6.2. A planning group has been convened for the summit and developed a refined proposal for the objectives and approach required. The aim of the summit and associated events will be to support behaviour change in senior leadership and shift organisational decision making and investment to address health and wellbeing inequalities and equity in Lewisham.
- 6.3. COVID-19 exacerbated health inequalities which will continue to escalate through a

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disproportionate legacy (e.g. increased poor mental and physical health, unemployment, income/debt issues, housing issues, lack of care system capacity).

- 6.4. Health inequalities and inequity were unsustainable issues pre-COVID-19 and now require urgent radical change. Addressing health inequalities and improving equity at population level requires actions that are evidence-based, outcomes orientated, systematically applied, appropriately resourced and sustainable.
- 6.5. Developmental work at South East London CCG provides a basis to develop a system-wide approach across Lewisham leadership by developing individual and organisational understanding to deliver commitment, action and investment. There are also promising developments within Lewisham with the potential to achieve change if implemented (and invested in) at scale. This work will support statutory functions for health inequalities and population health management across the ICS in April 2022.
- 6.6. The main objectives of the summit and associated events will be to:
- Develop system leaders' understanding of the scale and implications of health inequalities and inequity in Lewisham and their individual and organisational role and responsibility in addressing them.
 - Support understanding across system leaders of evidence-based actions and investment to address health and wellbeing inequalities and inequity.
 - Identify specific, measurable actions and investments across anchor organisations and others to address health and wellbeing inequalities and inequity.
- 6.7. A developmental approach will support system leader and organisational change through supporting individual development (e.g. developing capability and motivation for action) and organisational development (e.g. improvement approach)
- 6.8. A three staged approach has been proposed:
- i) Developing individual and organisational understanding of health inequalities and inequities and their role and responsibility – October 2021
 - ii) Support collaborative evidence-based action planning and investment with a specific workshop/summit to facilitate this – November 2021
 - iii) Identification of actions – January-March 2021
- Organisations develop their own action plans for addressing health inequalities in health equity.
 - Develop a community event to present and discuss plans.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1. There are no significant financial implications of this report and resourcing of the toolkit

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and summit being developed will come from existing Public Health grants.

8. Legal implications

8.1. 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.

9. Equalities implications

9.1. This report specifically aims to address health inequalities by outlining the development of a toolkit and plans for a health inequalities summit.

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. 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 the development of a toolkit and plans for a health inequalities summit.

13. Report author and contact

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