

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>Tuesday 2 November 2021</p>	
<p>Report of: Denise Radley, Corporate Director Health Adults and Community</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission – Health section update</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health, LBTH
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

The Tower Hamlets Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission health recommendations and action plan was brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 21st of September.

Nine of the twenty-three recommendations made by the Commission made by the Commission relate to health and wellbeing.

The Commission Action Plan is being presented at the Tower Hamlets Council Cabinet on the 27th October to agree the recommendations and additional funding to support delivery.

This report sets out the progress and immediate priorities for delivery against the Health Theme of the action plan.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note and discuss current progress and plans for delivery against recommendations in 2021/22.
2. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4.1.
3. Note the update on taking forward research on causes of inequalities in Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities (refer to Appendix 1).

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The findings of the Commission outline the local changes that need to be made in the health and care system to tackle inequality and improve health outcomes for Black, Asian and Ethnic communities. The action plan is intended to ensure that the findings are acted on in a meaningful way.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Alternative or additional options for delivery of recommendations can be developed in line with feedback.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Action Plan of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission Action plan will be discussed at the Tower Hamlets Cabinet on the 27th October.

- 3.2 The Cabinet report sets out current progress on the Health theme of the action plan:

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/s193220/6.2%20Tower%20Hamlets%20Black%20Asian%20and%20Minority%20Ethnic%20Inequalities%20Commission%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

- 3.3 This sets out projects delivered by the partnership aiming to improve health outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities including:

- The public health response to the pandemic adapted to consider digital exclusion. A Covid-19 helpline was set-up to resolve issues and book vaccines, with call handlers who speak community languages. Posters and signs in community languages were placed around the borough in relation to Covid-19. Somali and Bangladeshi community organisations delivered outreach and support and codesigned tailored prevention and protection messages to the life course groups within these communities.
- In Barts Health NHS Trust, work has been undertaken with renal medicine (the largest user of remote access), which included reviewing access to bilingual health advocacy, advocacy staff calling non-English patients prior to video consultations to assess their needs and any concerns. As a result, setting up setting up 3-way consultations when necessary. - Covid-19 vaccine clinics for people who are undocumented or with no recourse to public funds have been organised, explicitly promoted to people who may be worried
- The Tower Hamlets Together (THT) Board has completed an anti-racism leadership development programme provided by the equality charity Brap. This has included a focus on systemic racism and systemic change.

- THT partners have agreed a joint Workforce and Occupational Development (OD) Strategy in March 2021 with commitments to tackle Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic inequality amongst staff.
- Barts Health NHS Trust has committed to 3% year on year growth of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic staff in senior positions. This has been achieved over the last year, maintaining this growth would allow the trust to achieve representative leadership by 2028.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board and Tower Hamlets Together partnership have gathered community insights to support better understanding of causes of health inequalities amongst Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities. - The Board has used the insights to agree a Health & Wellbeing Strategy for 2021-2025 with key principle of addressing inequalities and being antiracist in everything the partnership does.
- The council has developed anti-racism practice in adult social care including establishing a board which aims to ensure the social care workforce has substantial knowledge of anti-racism in practice and that social care has a diverse workforce reflective of the community, who are supported, included and have development opportunities.

3.4 The report also sets out the key deliverables for 2022 which are set out below

3.5 By March 2022 the partnership will gather and analyse data across the system, manage an audit of key public information in community languages and organise translations, coordinate 'you said, we did' work related to coproduction. It will also arrange a 'lessons learned' exercise in relation to Covid-19 approaches by April 2022, targeted at Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities that we may want to replicate in future for other health issues. The partnership has also developed a digital inclusion action plan with the aim of better coordinating digital inclusion activities across the borough to ensure residents have the tools and skills they need to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from a digital world.

3.6 The Health & Wellbeing Board has commenced work on developing a robust evidence base to form a better understanding of key health inequalities and the impact it has on our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. As part of this research there will be significant emphasis on engagement with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities to identify key issues and solutions. This will be supported by Healthwatch Tower Hamlets who will gather their own intelligence on the experience and issues for patients at the Royal London Hospital. Both workstreams are expected to be completed by December 2021 and will provide evidenced based solutions to address health inequalities and inform future activities of the partnership.

3.7 The Partnership will better recognise and meet the cultural needs of patients through the development of anti-racist practice. The success of the antiracism

leadership programme delivered by BRAP to the Tower Hamlets Together Executive Board, the partnership will invest in an anti-racism leadership programme beyond 2021. This will help to drive deep cultural change and tackle the pervasive racial microaggressions, bias and stereotypes that exist in society and service provision.

- 3.8 The partnership will continue to support the delivery of the Disparities project which aims to work with Black Asian and Minority Ethnic residents to amplify and sustain the impact and influence achieved during the response to the pandemic. The project will provide a locally driven, co-production support programme targeting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities with an emphasis on prioritising mental health. This will lead to improvement in access to services and better satisfaction amongst local people.
- 3.9 Through the insights on local inequality the partnership will work as one voice to influence and lobby for further resources for Tower Hamlets. The partnership will support local campaigns to improve access to health services by lobbying against the hostile environment policies and reduce the checking of immigration status of service users and patients.
- 3.10 The report notes additional proposed investment (through the Public Health Reserve - £350k and Contain Outbreak Management Fund - £200k) to achieve the following outcomes on health:
- Improved access to health and care services for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents.
 - Leaders in health and social care champion and actively address health inequalities faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents.
 - Better representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff at all levels in health services.
 - Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents are meaningfully involved and engaged in design and delivery of health services.
 - Health and wellbeing key messages reach Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents and deliver intended outcomes

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The focus of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic inequalities Commission was to explore inequalities facing our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. The findings, recommendations and actions which respond to them reflect this. The Commission noted the importance of intersectionality of inequalities facing different protected characteristics such as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women, different groups within Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and deprivation. The actions provide a partnership response to the recommendations from this Commission will help to address inequalities in Tower Hamlets and provide a platform to ensure equalities remains at the forefront of our collective work

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

5.2 The main interfaces here relate to:

- 2010 Equality Act
- 2014 Care Act
- 2021 Health and Care Bill

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1.1 The total budget for delivery of the Tower Hamlets Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission Action Plans will be £1,582,691. £595,000 will be delivered within existing resources. A recommendation to Cabinet (27 October) sets out additional £987,691 is required to fund this programme of work.

1.2 This action plan (health recommendations) will be delivered within existing resource as follows:

- £350k from Public Health reserve for BAME Commission
- £200k from Covid Outbreak funding

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The Council has the legal power to undertake the activities referred to in this report.

7.2 The report refers to the expenditure of various sums of money to achieve certain objectives. Where the identified sums are to be spent with external organisations then such expenditure will be subject to either an appropriate level of competition in line with the law or as grants (as the case may be) in accordance with the Council's constitution. In either case, such expenditure will be subject to appropriate checks and measures (such as comparison with similar spend elsewhere and contract monitoring) to ensure the expenditure represents statutory Best Value.

7.3 The expenditure via grant or services contract will also be subject to its own approval process in accordance with the Council's constitution.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Agenda item 6.2 Tower Hamlets Cabinet -27th October 2021
<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=720&MId=12318>

Appendices

- APPENDIX 1- Update on taking forward research on causes of inequalities in Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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