

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b></p> <p>Tuesday 1 February 2022</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Denise Radley, Corporate Director Health Adults and Community</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission – Health section progress update</b></p>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health, LBTH
<b>Wards affected</b>	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 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

Nine of the twenty-three recommendations made by the Commission made by the Commission relate to health and wellbeing and immediate priorities for delivery were discussed further at the Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November (following agreement of recommendations at Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> October)

This report sets out the progress, plans and areas of challenge for delivery against these recommendation.

### Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note and discuss current progress, plans and areas of challenge for delivery against recommendations in 22/23.
2. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4.1.

## **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 was discussed and agreed at the Tower Hamlets Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.
- 3.2 The Cabinet report sets out the context and action plan of the Commission  
<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/s193220/6.2%20Tower%20Hamlets%20Black%20Asian%20and%20Minority%20Ethnic%20Inequalities%20Commission%20Action%20Plan.pdf>
- 3.3 The attached spreadsheet updates on the specific health recommendations of the Commission.
- 3.4 The recommendations for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are interrelated and relate to campaigns, communications, research, codesigned services, digital exclusion, clinical training, hostile environment, partnership, representation.
- 3.5 At this point, progress links primarily to existing pandemic related work, plans for future progress, securing capacity to take the work forward and addressing strategic issues.
- 3.6 Specifically, pandemic work focussed on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities continues including the multilingual vaccine helpline, Covid Champions and outreach work targeted at Bangladeshi, Somali, Black African Caribbean and Black African communities.
- 3.7 The research work to understand health inequalities at a deeper level amongst Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and coproduce ways forward has now been commissioned and will complete over the next two months (further information in attached spreadsheet)
- 3.8 Capacity to take forward the communications and campaigns recommendations has been identified through a full-time fixed term post which

will focus particularly on recommendations around ensuring communications messages and materials are available and culturally appropriate linking to the research findings as well as the campaigns work.

- 3.9 Due to COVID there has been delay taking forward the partnership, leadership clinical training and organisational development elements of the plan. However, the action plan meeting following from the Tower Hamlets Together (THT) Board anti-racism training is taking place later this month and the THT People and Organisational Development Committee has established a subgroup to take forward implementation of the Boroughs anti-racism pledge.
- 3.10 Finally, reflection on the recommendations around digital exclusion facing Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities indicate that a more strategic approach is required and these will be discussed further at the steering group of the Partnership Digital Inclusion Plan steering group (coordinated by the council) to ensure alignment with the wider measures of the overall digital inclusion plan and agreed specific, quantifiable actions.

#### **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

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

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

### **Appendices**

- APPENDIX 1- Action Plan Update
- APPENDIX 2 – BAME inequalities research progress

### **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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