

	<u>Agenda Item: 20</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	8th February 2022
TITLE:	BIRMINGHAM AND LEWISHAM AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN HEALTH INEQUALITIES REVIEW (BLACHIR)
Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer/ Author	Monika Rozanski, Service Lead Inequalities

Report Type:	Update (Information item)
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1. Purpose:
1.1 To report on the progress of Birmingham - Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR).

2. Implications:		
BHWB Strategy Priorities	Childhood Obesity	
	Health Inequalities	X
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		
Creating a Healthy Food City		
Creating a Mentally Healthy City		
Creating an Active City		
Creating a City without Inequality		X
Health Protection		

3. Recommendation
It is recommended that the Board:
3.1 Acknowledge the progress made by the BLACHIR project.

4. Report Body

4.1 Background and purpose of BLACHIR

The Birmingham - Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) is a partnership between Birmingham City Council and Lewisham Council to share knowledge and resources through a collaborative review process. It follows the work of both Councils as national Childhood Obesity Trailblazers.

BLACHIR focuses on the Black African and Black Caribbean communities. The partnership has undertaken a series of in-depth reviews to explore the health inequalities being experienced by Black African and Black Caribbean population in both localities.

An external advisory board, consisting of individuals with lived experience, and an academic advisory board were recruited to review, critique and discuss the findings from reviews of published research, evidence and local data. The boards have been supporting the review process through examining the evidence and shaping the recommendations.

The main objective of the review is to produce a joint final report that brings together the findings from all of the themed reviews and a series of recommendations being referred to as opportunities for action. The final report will also include data analysis conducted by the review group throughout the 18-month period.

The Review includes 9 topics, these are:

- Racism & discrimination role in health inequalities
- Early years, Pregnancy & Parenthood
- Children and Young People
- Ageing well
- Mental health & wellbeing
- Behavioural (lifestyle) factors
- Wider determinants of health
- Long Term Physical Health Conditions (*previously named 'Chronic disease'*)
- Emergency Care and Preventable Mortality (*previously named 'Acute disease and death'*)

4.2 BLACHIR Progress so far

Since the last update to the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2021, two final themed reviews: Wider Determinants of Health and the combined healthcare ones (number 8 and 9 from the list above) have now been completed which concludes the main part of the review. The public engagement activity is still ongoing and will be completed for Birmingham - by 21 January 2022 and for Lewisham – by 31 January 2022.

The analysis from the first two phases of the engagement activity in Birmingham, which included 5 public events and 2 surveys has been completed. The final phase 3 of the engagement activity is near completion with the final survey closing on 20 January 2022.

Work is underway to produce the full report with recommendations which will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 22 February and will be available in final design format by 25 February.

Some early findings and considerations such as the need for developing a greater cultural competency amongst the health and care staff in the city and developing culturally sensitive interventions, including public health guidelines for physical activity and healthy eating, have already started to be implemented.

4.3 Next Steps

The next steps include:

- The completion with the main report together with case studies and summary of evidence by 31 January 2022.
- The report to be presented to CLT, CMB and HWBB during the month of February (with submission to HWB on 22 February for consideration at the March meeting).
- The report designed, accessibility checked and ready for publication by 28 February 2022.

5. Compliance Issues

5.1 HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

- 5.1.1 A brief update to be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress to ensure steady progress and address any issues or risks highlighted that may hinder required outputs and outcomes.

5.2 Management Responsibility

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health, Birmingham City Council
 Dr Modupe Omonijo, Assistant Director, Birmingham City Council
 Monika Rozanski, Service Lead – Inequalities, Birmingham City Council

6. Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
The competing demands on the public health teams responsible for finalising the BLACHIR review report has led to a priority to achieve a final product which offers the	High	High	Robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure collaborative working to promote positive workable solutions. Commissioning of a larger proportion of the thematic systematic reviews and engagement activity by Birmingham Public Health.

most acceptable quality information about the topics covered within the review including the engagement with the public.			Commissioning of additional editorial capacity to prepare the report on behalf of both teams by Birmingham City Council.
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Appendices

None

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

Monika Rozanski, Service Lead – Inequalities, Birmingham City Council
 Lucy Bouncer, Programme Officer – Inequalities, Birmingham City Council