

	<u>Agenda Item: 14</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	17th May 2022
TITLE:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING FORUM UPDATES - BLACHIR REPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION UPDATE
Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer	Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health

Report Type:	Information and endorsement
---------------------	------------------------------------

1. Purpose:
The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the plans to implement the BLACHIR opportunities for action

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

3. Recommendation
3.1 The Board are requested to consider and endorse the approach to implementing BLACHIR recommendations in Birmingham.

4. Report Body

Background

The Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) was launched in 2020 as a partnership between Birmingham and Lewisham to explore and better understand the inequalities affecting African and Caribbean communities in our areas and co-produce with communities, opportunities for action to break structural inequalities.

The review was a new approach methodology working with an external community advisory board and an academic advisory board to develop recommended opportunities for action to achieve systemic change.



A thematic approach was taken to considering the inequalities drawing on the life-course model and the recognised wider determinants of health.



Eight themes were explored in detail and for each theme there was a rapid evidence review undertaken by one of the Public Health teams, either directly or commissioned out. These were then discussed with the academic board to identify potential evidence-based recommendations that were then discussed with the community advisory board to reflect on lived experience and practical application.

There was then public consultation to review the identified opportunities for action, including specific workshops with young people.

The review was completed on 31 January 2022 and the draft report was shared with and endorsed by the health and wellbeing boards in both localities in March 2022. The report is currently being designed by the Birmingham City Council's design team into a fully accessible format. It is expected that it will be available for publication by end of May 2022.

BLACHIR findings

Findings from the review were presented to the Board in March 2022 summarised as follows:

1. Fairness, inclusion and respect

The Review calls for the Health and Wellbeing Board and NHS Integrated Care Systems to explicitly recognise structural racism and discrimination as drivers of ill health, systematically identify and address discrimination within systems and practices, and engage with Black African and Black Caribbean individuals and organisations to ensure community voice and their leadership in driving this work.

2. Trust and transparency

The Review calls for cultural competence training of health and social care professionals led by the NHS Integrated Care Systems and the Councils. This will require working with trusted community organisations and partners to coproduce training for professionals and volunteers that includes cultural awareness, is trauma informed and recognises the short and long-term impacts of discrimination and racism, values lived experiences and embeds and delivers inclusion in practices and policies.

3. Better data

The Review calls for the Health and Wellbeing Boards to act across their partnerships to strengthen granular culturally sensitive data collection and analysis. Collaboration with professionals who represent these ethnic backgrounds can create a more sensitive, informed and appropriate approach to data collection and commitment that when data is collected it is used to drive better services and outcomes.

4. Early interventions

The Review calls for the Health and Wellbeing Board to work with the Children's Trusts and Children's Strategic Partnerships to develop a clear action plan to provide support at critical life stages to mitigate disadvantage and address the inequalities affecting Black African and Black Caribbean children and young people. Investing early in local opportunities and partnerships is key to helping households and improving the lives of local children and young people.

5. Health checks and campaigns

The Review calls for the Health and Wellbeing Board to act across their partnerships to promote health checks through public campaigns to increase the uptake of 8 community-based health checks in easy to access locations. This should also include specific work on mental health and wellbeing, working with community organisations and partners to increase peoples' understanding of the different types of mental illness and to encourage self-help, early intervention and self-referral to the NHS mental health services.

6. Healthier behaviours

The Review calls for the Public Health Teams and their partners to assess current service provision and health improvement campaigns through a cultural competency lens to improve support and access for these communities. This should be built on coproducing interventions with supplementary training for professionals such as health education and racial trauma awareness to help understand the psychological reasons for unhealthy behaviours and the role of lived experiences of discrimination in causing unhealthy habits.

7. Health literacy

The Review calls for the Health and Wellbeing Boards and NHS Integrated Care Systems to work with local community and voluntary sector partners to develop targeted programmes on health literacy for Black African and Black Caribbean communities. Improving health literacy has been shown to have a positive impact on reducing health inequalities and helping people to manage long-term conditions effectively and to reduce the burden on health and social care services.

There are 39 opportunities for action across the seven finding themes. In some areas these opportunities are suggested as pilots of approaches as the evidence base and live experience supports action but there is limited evidence on effectiveness.

Launch and Implementation

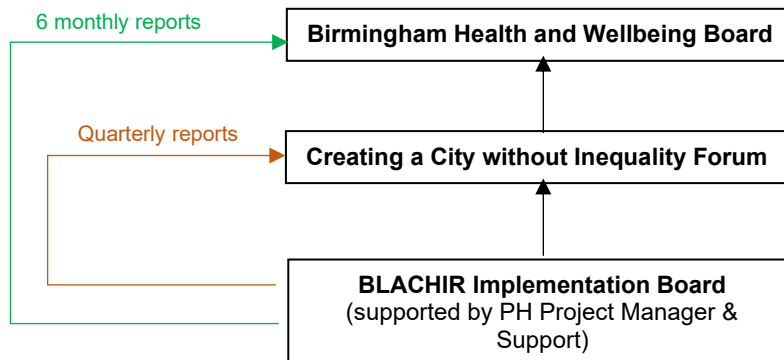
The Public Health Teams in both localities are supporting complimentary launch events. There will be bespoke events for each locality within the week of 6 June 2022. In Birmingham, our launch will take place on 9 June 2022, starting at 4pm (venue within the community to be confirmed shortly). The launch will involve communities and partners who will share the findings of the report and plans to address the opportunities for action.

It is paramount that the project remains engaged with the local communities in the city and continues to learn from lived experience as the opportunities for action are taken up. To support this, the Public Health Team are commissioning 4 engagement partners to link with local African and Caribbean communities and facilitate action to address the issues described in the report.

The Creating a City without Inequality Forum has overseen the BLACHIR work on behalf of the Health & Wellbeing Board and is proposing the establishment of a

project board sub-group to embed the opportunities for action across our health and care system. The work will be supported by a dedicated public health senior officer within the PH Inequalities Team that we are currently in the process of recruiting.

A detailed implementation plan will be developed jointly with the project board in June 2022 and will be shared with the health and wellbeing board for ratification.



Conclusion and Recommendation

The Board are requested to consider and endorse the approach to the implementation of BLACHIR opportunities for action as detailed above. This approach will provide the assurance and transparency required for this project.

5. Compliance Issues

5.1 HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

We will provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board every 6 months throughout the duration of the implementation project. The update will include information on progress and will highlight any issues or risks that may hinder required outputs and outcomes that the health and wellbeing board may be able to help to address.

5.2 Management Responsibility

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health, Birmingham City Council
 Dr Tessa Lindfield – Interim Assistant Director, Birmingham City Council
 Monika Rozanski – Service Lead - Inequalities

6. Risk Analysis			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
There are no significant risks identified at present			

Appendices
None