

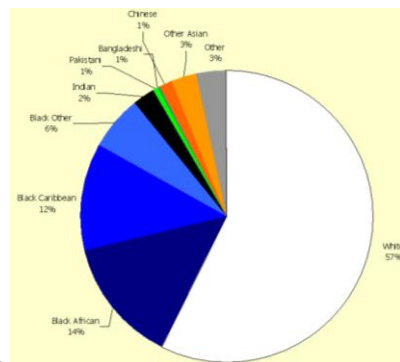
# The Birmingham and Lewisham African & Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)



# Background

Birmingham and Lewisham Public Health Divisions share a joint aspiration to address ethnic inequalities, through an increased understanding, appreciation, and engagement with Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups. This has resulted in a partnership between the two Public Health Divisions to share knowledge and resources through a collaborative review process. The Birmingham and Lewisham African & Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) will initially focus on the Black African and Black Caribbean communities, this will enable a more detailed and culturally sensitive approach. The Covid19 outbreak has further highlighted the impact of these inequalities in the context of infectious disease with Black African and Black Caribbean people over-represented in the deaths from Covid19. As part of the review process, external Academic and Advisory Boards will be established to help inform the work of the review team and bring together a wide and diverse range of academics with interests in this area.

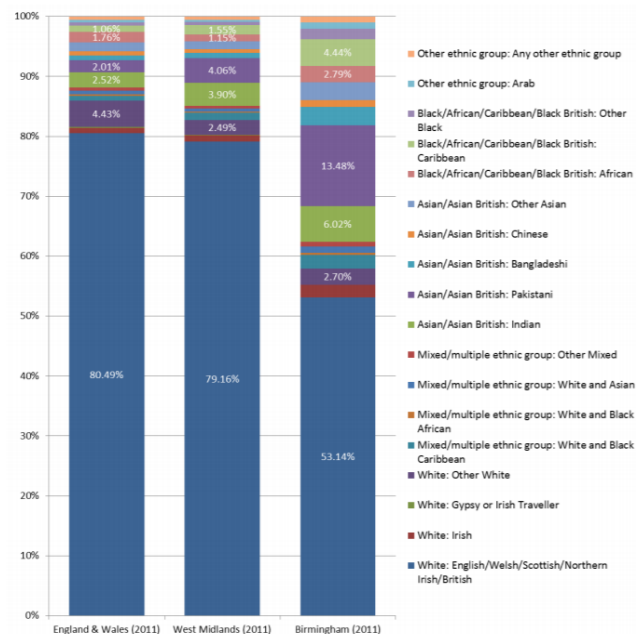
Population by ethnic group, Lewisham 2013 (%)



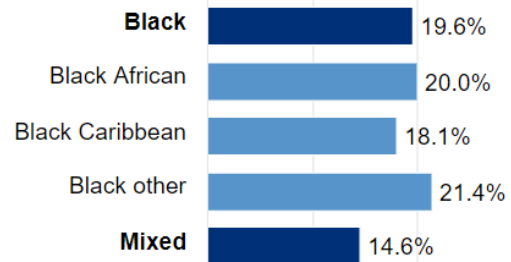
In general, England is becoming more ethnically diverse, with an increasing proportion of the population identifying as being from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME).

There is large variation in ethnic diversity between different areas of England; eight of the ten Local Authorities (LA's) with the highest level of ethnic diversity are in London, with Lewisham being the 15th most ethnicity diverse LA in England. And outside London, Birmingham is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in the UK.

Birmingham is home to a significant proportion of the overall African and Caribbean population in England. In Lewisham, 48% of the general population are from BAME groups with the largest ethnic minority group being Black African (14%) and Black Caribbean (12%) communities.



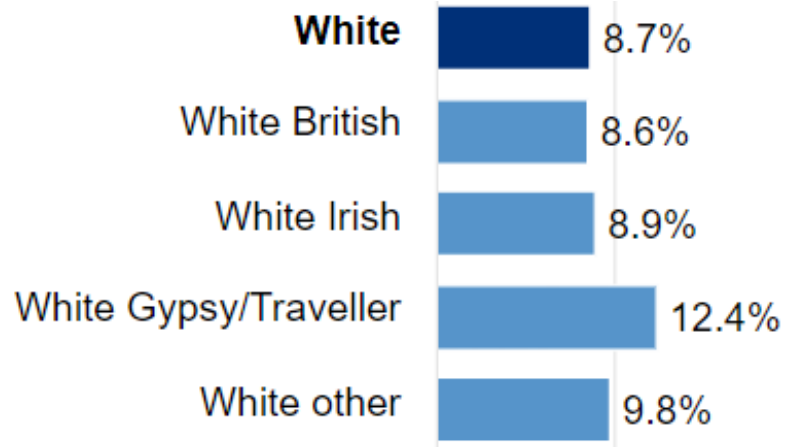
Proportion of population by ethnic groups, Birmingham 2011 (%)



Percentage of people living in the most income-deprived neighborhoods, by ethnicity in England and Wales.

There is a link between ethnicity and levels of deprivation.

Both Lewisham and Birmingham experience high levels of deprivation; Lewisham is the 31<sup>st</sup> most deprived LA (out of 326) and Birmingham is in the top 10 most deprived LA's in England.



It is understood that ethnic minorities have poorer health outcomes in the UK. Both local authorities are facing these health inequalities. And therefore, Birmingham City Council and Lewisham Council are entering a partnership to improve ethnic inequalities, through an increased understanding, appreciation and engagement with BAME groups initially focusing on the Black African and black Caribbean community.

# Advisory Board

## Purpose

The purpose of the External Advisory Board will be to provide an external group of individuals, with the aim of representing a wide range of different aspects of the Black African and Black Caribbean communities in Lewisham, Birmingham and nationally, to enable regular discussions that will inform the review process. The review will make recommendations to the Health and Wellbeing Boards of both Lewisham and Birmingham to take forward through the members of the Boards.

# Academic Board

## Purpose

The main purpose of the External Academic Board will be to provide a network of academics who have a research interest in African and Caribbean health inequalities to support and inform the Birmingham and Lewisham Review.

There will be an ongoing cycle of meetings, initially involving the Review Team, followed by the Academic Board and lastly the Advisory Board. A separate theme will be discussed each cycle; there may be some overlap between the cycles. This cycle is demonstrated in the diagram below:

# Academic Board

**15 Academics** have been appointed to the board position.

They have experience and research work in:

- Media, race and social injustices
- Mental health
- Ethnic minorities in care homes
- BAME inequalities relating to housing, finance, research projects, and policy
- Research reports include African and Caribbean community
- Youth studies
- Health care research
- Youth and NEET from work experience

# Advisory Board

Members of the Board have attributes of community engagement specific to Birmingham and Lewisham to collect and report lived experiences from both Local Authorities.

5 members from Lewisham and 4 members from Birmingham who are actively involved within the community and who are residents of the area have been appointed.

Collectively they have been active in community engagement encompassing and representing:

- BAME issues
- Community leaders
- Young people support
- Women representatives
- Disability issues
- Underrepresented groups
- Mental health

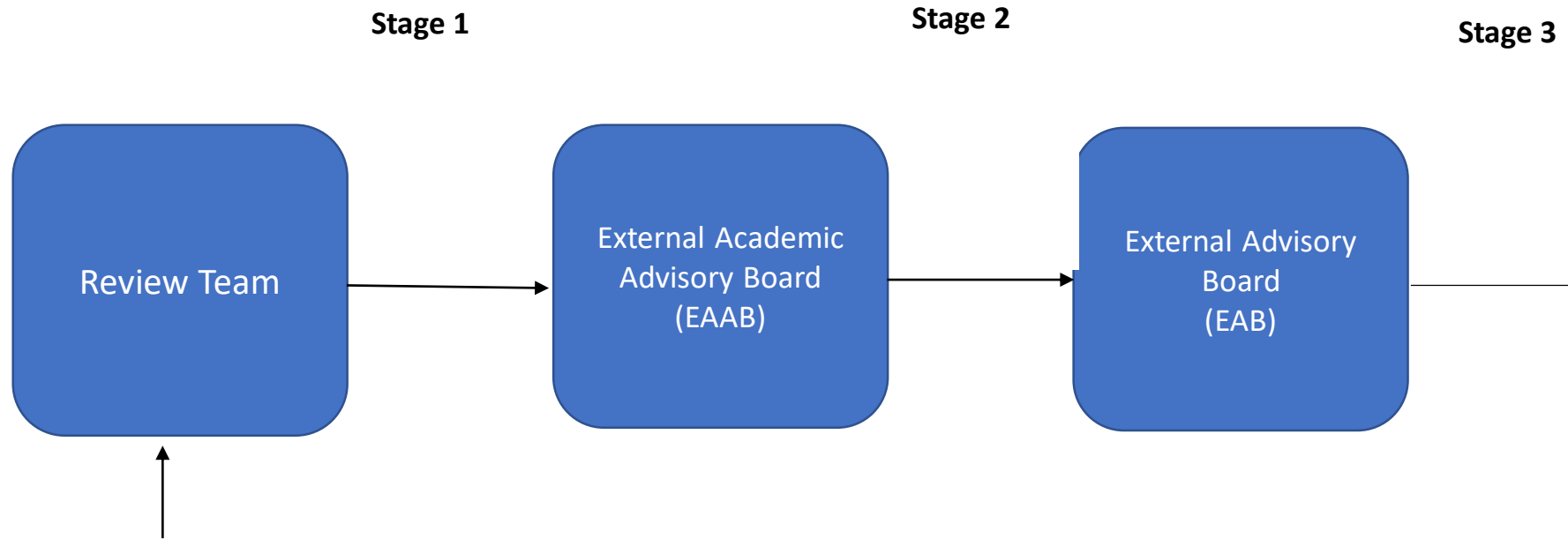
# The 9 pillars of the review

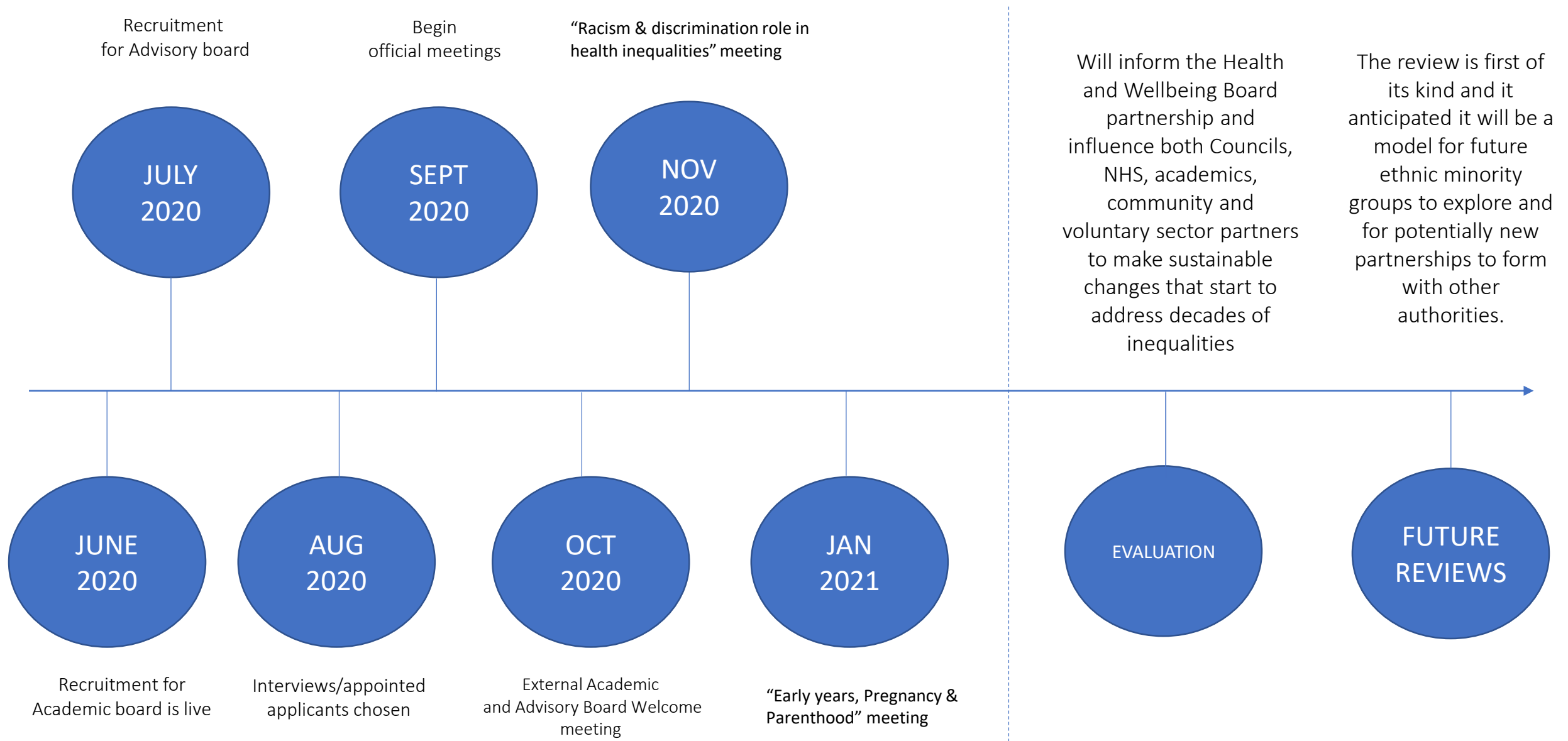
- **Racism & discrimination role in health inequalities**
- **Early years, Pregnancy & Parenthood**
- **Children and Young People**
  - (e.g. youth violence, NEET, opportunities)
- **Ageing well**
  - (e.g. Dementia & Frailty)
- **Lifestyle factors**
  - (e.g. smoking, physical activity, nutrition & diet, drugs & alcohol)
- **Mental health & wellbeing**
- **Chronic disease**
  - (e.g. diabetes, hypertension)
- **Acute disease and death**
  - (e.g. hospital admissions)
- **Wider determinants of health**
  - (e.g. housing, employment, education, poverty)



# Meeting Cycle Process

It is anticipated that there will be an ongoing cycle of meetings, initially involving the Review Team, followed by the Academic Board and lastly the Advisory Board. This cycle is demonstrated in the diagram below:





# Progress so far

- The first review meetings have taken place “Racism & discrimination role in health inequalities”
- On Tuesday we have received the feedback from the advisory board on the discussion of the findings.

The discussion has been focusing on:

- Language about racism and discrimination:
  - Ethnicity Monitoring (the use of the word “black” to identify ethnicity)
  - How we describe racism
  - Language (BAME)
- Adverse childhood events
  - Microaggression
  - Racism as an ACE
- Health professionals education
  - Implicit bias/cultural competency sessions review
- Role of community in tackling racism and discrimination and link to health
  - Improve public engagement
  - Address mistrust of healthcare
  - Improve access to higher education and medical/health courses.

## Next steps

Second pillar/theme meetings early next year:

- Early years, Pregnancy & Parenthood
  - Commissioned review of the evidence
  - Survey of lived experiences
- Ongoing review of processes
- <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/blachir>