

Appendix 4 – Creating a City Without Inequality Forum Highlight Report

1.1 Context

The Forum was stepped down in March 2020 as a result of the coronavirus outbreak as partners re-directed their efforts to support our citizens during the pandemic. The impacts of Covid on health and wellbeing and their extent are not yet fully understood, but we already know that the pandemic, and the wider governmental and societal response, have brought health inequalities into sharp focus.

The Forum resumed on 2 July 2020 via Teams. It was attended by 37 participants, including non-members. It was chaired by Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities, focusing on the impacts of COVID-19 on health inequalities. The agenda included:

- An overview and progress report on the Birmingham-Lewisham Partnership to undertake a review on health inequalities affecting African and Caribbean communities;
- An update on food distribution and tackling food poverty during Covid;
- An overview of Covid-19 and its impacts on health inequalities as reported nationally and anecdotally;
- A presentation of initial findings from Public Health surveys capturing the impacts of Covid-19 on health and wellbeing of the residents of Birmingham;
- A discussion and exercises to map Covid impacts on health inequalities across the life course, looking at challenges, opportunities, actions and services and existing and/ or anticipated gaps.

1.2 Current Circumstance

The meeting scheduled for the 19 August 2020 was cancelled due to high number of apologies. Instead, a virtual request to report on short and long-term effects of the pandemic and its impacts on health inequalities across the life course has been made. This sits alongside measures to address those gaps in view to develop a joint strategic action that will strengthen/ complement the activity already under way.

1.3 Next Steps and Delivery

- The developed insight and maps will be used to create a joint action to prevent, mitigate and address the adverse impacts of Covid and health inequalities building on and through the wider partnership networks, including the Financial Inclusion Partnership, the homelessness and domestic abuse prevention agendas, the community recovery programme as well as the other Health and Wellbeing Board's sub-groups.
- Progress will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board regularly.
- The next meeting will be held on 14 September 2020 and will continue to focus on Covid impacts and mitigation and recovery action across the partnership.