

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Health Needs Assessment Black and Minority Ethnic Population

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Health & Wellbeing Board on progress of the health needs assessment (HNA) on the black and minority ethnic (BME) population in Gateshead.

2. Background

The approval to develop this HNA was given by Health and Wellbeing Board on 9th September 2016.

In 2016 BME groups in Gateshead raised concerns to the Health and Wellbeing Board that the needs of the BME communities had not been sufficiently considered within the development of some commissioning plans. In response to this, Gateshead Council Public Health (PH) have undertaken this health needs assessment.

The aim of a HNA is to systematically assess the needs of this population group, and to assess whether local services are meeting these needs. A HNA allows Health and Wellbeing Board to gain better awareness of the needs of the population in Gateshead, and use this intelligence to inform future strategy development and commissioning decisions.

The HNA at Appendix 1 provides a draft document which shows a profile of quantitative and qualitative information on the BME communities, building on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, to identify the protected population characteristics covered by the equity duty (Equity Act 2010). It uses epidemiological methods to consider factors appropriate to the BME population that could give rise to health and social care needs and to describe this population group with respect to geographic distribution and age.

Due to the comparatively small numbers of BME people in Gateshead, further information was also used to describe the health needs of BME groups in the United Kingdom, an approach which collates all relevant demographic and epidemiological information to develop a profile of BME population in Gateshead, North East and Nationally.

This HNA uses a comparative approach to benchmark health outcomes, determinants and risk factors to highlight inequalities and unmet need and:

- Provides a profile of the health needs of the BME population in Gateshead
- Identifies needs met by current services

- Provides recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board to inform strategic planning, service provision and reduce variation in health and social care.

Inequalities exist in health and health care experience of BME groups in England. Reasons for these variations may reflect genetic or biological differences, differences in reporting, differences in factors that lead to ill health or differences in access to and experiences of health care services.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the initial information provided in Appendix 1 will inform the Board of the investigated needs of this population group. Further information regarding the use of services within primary care, diagnoses and referral rates to secondary care for some medical conditions is awaited from North East Commissioning Support on behalf of the CCG. Availability and analysis of this data has been unavailable during the timescale given to write this document. However, it would be realistically expected that some conditions will be proportionately higher for this population group.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the general consensus that there is enormous variation between and within ethnic groups, and approaching ethnic minority groups as a whole is not a solution. Service providers in public, private and community sectors have a responsibility to examine how well they are serving all of the groups in their local area.

4. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to receive the attached document and approve a short term task group to progress:-

- Analysis of primary care data in order to investigate important risk profiles for this population
- Develop an action plan to propose solutions to ensure BME communities receive important messages regarding access to appropriate services.
- And, implement the action plan in appropriate ways to ensure solutions to the issues and recommendations set out in the HNA.

The HNA BME document will be available for commissioning organisations, to ensure that information is accessible to strategic planners and providers.

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