

**TITLE OF REPORT:        Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups Health Needs Assessment - Public Health Update**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) on the action taken by Public Health to implement the recommendations of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups Health Needs Assessment.

**Background**

2. The Health Needs Assessment was endorsed by the HWB at its meeting on 21 July 2017. It was agreed that Board Members should each take forward the relevant recommendations, and report directly back to the Board.
3. This response provides an overview of action on those recommendations that are relevant to the work of the Public Health team. The key services commissioned by PH in respect of the BME population are 0-19 services, smoking cessation, sexual health and substance misuse, but the team also provides expertise and leadership in work to improve the overall health of the local population, including underlying factors such as lifestyles.
4. The response does not address those recommendations that fall to other organisations to implement.

**Public Health Update**

5. Many of the recommendations are already accepted practice in Public Health, such as the use of Equality Impact Assessments (for example the Sexual Health service is contracted to produce an annual EIA action plan), the recording of ethnicity of the service users (and the Council's own workforce), and the availability of providers' information on services in appropriate languages.
6. There are already examples of services being delivered in ways that should ensure they are more accessible to BME communities. For example, the sexual health service recognises that some BME groups are at higher risk of STIs, and provides home sampling kits which are a more acceptable way of accessing diagnostic testing for some groups that are reluctant to use traditional services. The substance misuse provider offers family based interventions to service users, in line with the HNA recommendations, and the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) team provides training and support that is accessible and appropriate for local BME communities.
7. However, we recognise there is more we can do.

8. The Public Health team will work with the Gateshead Smokefree Tobacco Control Alliance and the programme to improve uptake of the stop smoking service amongst BME tobacco users.
9. We will also ensure that in taking forward new work, such as the planned whole system healthy weight strategy to be developed for Gateshead and the recommissioning of substance misuse services, work will be undertaken regarding how best to involve local BME communities, and to ensure future services follow recommendations such as the need for outreach to BME communities. This approach has already been followed in the review of the 0-19 services.

### **Recommendations**

10. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the Public Health update on the BME HNA recommendations.

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