



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

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| Title of Report: | Healthier Together – Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on health inequalities and steps that need to be taken to address this in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) health system |
| Author (including organisation): | Adwoa Webber, Head of Clinical Effectiveness, BNSSG CCG |
| Date of Board meeting: | |
| Purpose: | Information and discussion |

- Paper to be no more than two pages long
- Draft papers are reviewed by the Public Health team
- Final papers will be published on the [public website](#)
- Board correspondence: HWB@bristol.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

There is increasing evidence that COVID-19 and the action being taken to limit its spread has widened existing health inequalities. Healthier Together as a partnership has an initial set of actions to begin to understand and address this which are currently mainly, but not solely, healthcare focussed. As a partnership looking at 'place', healthcare partners and the local authorities will want to continue to join up efforts to achieve maximum impact on reducing health inequalities.

2. Purpose of the Paper

This paper is to:

- inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of Healthier Together's current understanding of the impact that COVID-19 has had on health inequalities
- inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of actions that are being considered to address these either at a partnership level or more specifically interventions in healthcare in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
- ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider it wants to develop an ongoing relationship with the BNSSG Population Health, Prevention and Inequalities Group
- ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider what would make a BNSSG-wide expert review/challenge/scrutiny group effective

3. Background and evidence base

There is increasing evidence that the impact of COVID-19 is different for different parts of our population and it is not the "great leveller" that some people previously described.

Work has been done at both a national (Public Health England amongst others) and at a local level, including the Bristol Race Equality COVID-19 Steering Group, to further understand the impact of COVID-19, both the disease itself and the actions taken to limit its spread. Appendix 1 describes the impact in more detail. Please note that these are focussed on health and the impact of someone's situation on their health. We understand that COVID-19 and lockdown has also had, and continues to have, an impact on the lives of children and young people in terms of disrupted education, child/family poverty, safeguarding issues and employment and training prospects which in turn will impact on their health and wellbeing.

There are a number of initial actions that:

- a) Build on existing work, such as BNSSG Population Health, Prevention and Inequalities Group which has been set up to direct and move towards whole system tackling of socio-economic and health inequalities; engagement with our communities; equality and inequality impact assessments; using population health management and intelligence insights; and
- b) Are new, such as comprehensive and quality ethnicity data collection and recording; and considering prioritising care and resources for people with poorer outcomes both for COVID-19 and non COVID-19; setting up an expert review/challenge/scrutiny group

4. Community engagement

Healthier Together partners have been working together to listen to communities, e.g. understanding that communication about COVID-19 has not been easily accessible to some parts of our communities. Some of the work on interventions is just being considered and will need to be co-designed and potentially 'co-implemented' with and by the people that they affect, even in the scoping phase.

5. Recommendations

- Note Healthier Together's current understanding of the impact that COVID-19 has had on health inequalities
- Note the actions that are being considered to address these either at a partnership level or more specifically interventions in healthcare in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
- Consider how the Health and Wellbeing Board wants to develop an ongoing relationship with the BNSSG Population Health, Prevention and Inequalities Group
- Consider what would make a BNSSG-wide expert review/challenge/scrutiny group effective

6. City Benefits

Taking action on reducing or eliminating health inequalities will improve the lives of Bristol's citizens and help them and the city fulfil their potential.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

Healthier Together will need to consider how it can make the biggest difference it can to improving health outcomes with the money that it has.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on health inequalities and steps that need to be taken to address this in the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) health system