

Public Health

4th Floor, 222 Upper Street, N1 1XR

Report of: Director of Public Health

Meeting of: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 4th July 2023

Ward(s): all wards

Subject: Overview of inclusion health in Islington and North Central London

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. North Central London's Integrated Care System (NCL) is reviewing the population needs of inclusion health groups, working with local public health teams and others.
- 1.2. The first phase of the work was presented to the Board in November 2022 and described the demographic profiles from local data and needs assessments; regional and national data and evidence; and examples from the service mapping.
- 1.3. The accompanying report summarises the findings from the second phase of work which brings together lived experience, insights from senior system stakeholders and staff experience. This information complements the evidence collated in phase 1 to provide a comprehensive health needs assessment for inclusion health groups in NCL.
- 1.4. NCL would like to work with local Health and Wellbeing Boards and borough partnerships in further developing how the needs of these groups are met in local plans, drawing on strategies, services and work already in place.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The HWBB is asked to
 - 2.1.1. note the scope and the Phase 2 report findings and an overview for developing plans for taking forward recommendations and actions.
 - 2.1.2. consider what are the additional opportunities for Islington to use the insights from the Inclusion Health Needs Assessment to improve outcomes for inclusion health groups.
 - 2.1.3. consider how support from the wider North Central London system can assist with Inclusion Health within the borough.

3. Background

- 3.1. Inclusion health is a term used to describe people who are in groups who are significantly socially excluded, and whose health needs and access to health services are significantly worse than the general population. People in these groups frequently suffer from multiple health issues, including mental and physical health issues. This includes people who experience homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system and victims of modern slavery. They are often 'invisible' in electronic records and routine data.
- 3.2. People who are in these groups often experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, such as poverty, violence and complex trauma, and experience stigma, discrimination and disadvantage. These experiences frequently lead to barriers in access to healthcare and health outcomes. Evidence shows that people who are socially excluded underuse some services, such as primary and preventative care, and often rely on emergency services such as A&E when their health needs become acute. This results in missed opportunities for preventive interventions, serious illness and inefficiencies, which amplifies the health inequalities already being experienced by these groups. Cumulatively, this leads to extremely poor health outcomes, often much worse than the general population, and – where we have data - much lower life expectancy.
- 3.3. The groups which the NCL review is focusing on are: people experiencing homelessness; vulnerable migrants; Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; sex workers; and people who have been imprisoned. The needs of these groups are addressed in a number of local strategies and targeted services in Islington – examples are described in the attached report. The NCL review is an opportunity to further consider the needs of these groups in the light of this updated analysis and review.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report. The measures and recommendations proposed in this report are not currently quantifiable. Any recommendations from this report, if adopted, will need to be expanded upon and reviewed with the financial implications assessed.

4.2. Legal Implications

Nil, the implications of any recommendations are outside the remit of this report.

4.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

Nil, the implications of any recommendations are outside the remit of this report.

4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because it represents the second phase of a larger programme of work to develop a strategy. The strategy in its development will need to include an Equalities Impact Assessment.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. Health inclusion groups have significantly greater and more complex health and care needs than other population groups; they are more likely to access services later or on an emergency/urgent basis and experience issues with access, including to primary care and other preventive services. Islington has a clear focus through a variety of strategies and services to meet the needs of these groups, including dedicated services for people experiencing homelessness and people seeking asylum in Home Office accommodation. The NCL wide review is looking at these groups, and is presenting findings from the first phase of its review.

Appendices:

- Overview of Inclusion Health in Islington and North Central London (Needs Analysis), Islington Public Health and NCL Communities Team

Final report clearance:

Signed by: Jonathan O' Sullivan, Director of Public Health

Date: 20nd June 2023

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