

# **Equalities and Access Workstream Update**

July 2021

## **Workstream Overview**

- A workstream of the Vulnerable People's Working Group
- Initial task: understand disproportionate community impact of Covid on BAME, Faith and LGBTQ communities – take immediate mitigating actions and make recovery recommendations
- Expanded: to gender, disability and age
- Membership: BHCC, CCG and Community Works Reps
- Feedback: via mailing list of 80 diverse community groups, CW reps, and engagement at community meetings
- Intersectional & thematic approach: economy, finance, education, community safety, housing, mental and physical health, trust & confidence and communications
- Lockdown 1 Report and action plan
- Supports EIAs across all recovery working groups



## Lockdown 1 Report Key findings

- Disproportionate financial and economic impacts for BAME, disabled and NRPF individuals
- Loss of income for diverse community groups from community venues & events and Places of Worship
- Disproportionate impacts of home schooling for BAME young people, those with SEND & unaccompanied asylum seekers
- Heightened health concerns for BAME, LGBTQ, and disabled people
- Covid related hate incidents
- Safety of women during lockdown esp domestic abuse and housing provision
- Lack of trust and confidence in Test & Trace system
- Isolation & mental health impacts due to fears of increased susceptibility to the virus, loss of safe spaces, and patterns of home and household environments, loss of connection including for faith communities



# Ongoing issues

Key ongoing issues being highlighted include:

- · digital exclusion,
- mental health impacts,
- confidence in using public space,
- loss of support from services set up during Covid,
- vaccination confidence



# **Economy & Finance**

- Key activities include:
- Targeted communications on support available
- Gaps in support escalated nationally
- Funding for CVS supporting diverse communities:
  - ➤ £25,000 BAME Community engagement fund
  - ➤ £300,000 COMF funding for CVS to meet equalities and access recommendations
- Discretionary fund to support disproportionately affected individuals
- Targeted support to vulnerable groups of residents eg asylum seekers
- £47 million of Restart Grant funding distributed mainly to visitor economy with high proportion of workers from BAME ethnicities



# **Economy & Finance**







# Children and Young People

#### Key activities include:

- EMAS virtual sessions on Raising Early Achievement in Literacy and a home play pack.
- EMAS funding to contact parents in community languages.
- UACS Team and Virtual Schools Support Team support to unaccompanied minors to access education
- Communications and support for SEND community Covid
- Winter Grant food vouchers given to vulnerable families
- 42% of children accessing the Children's Centre foodbank were from BAME communities





# Children and Young People







# **Community Safety**

- Key activities include:
- BHCC funded & supported Racial Harassment Forum "Break the Silence" campaign







# Community Safety

#### Key activities include

- Safe space initiatives
- 60,000 COMF funding for hate crime third party reporting centre pilot
- Upstanders workshops with Covid hate crime scenarios
- Communications on prevention & reporting
- Monitoring via Community Tensions & Reassurance Group
- Communications on exemptions to face masks to mitigate tensions





# Housing

- Work to meet identified priority of safety of women in accommodation including:
- Support move on from specialist women's supported accommodation to create vacancies
- Staff are trained in gender-informed & trauma-informed practice
- Ensuring of women only areas and support to access specialist services.
- Women only accommodation services commissioned for women 16-25 and 18+.
- Housing Prevention Officers trained in interviewing and supporting people fleeing domestic abuse



#### Communications and digital inclusion

- Key activities include:
- Equalities mailing list
- Recruited BAME Engagement Officer
- Regular communications via Faith Council
- Easyread materials
- Support resources to Care Link members
- Support materials sent via Ageing Well Service partners
- BHCC seniors housing teams contact with and support for older residents.







You need to be on the Learning Disability Register. This is a list your GP keeps.

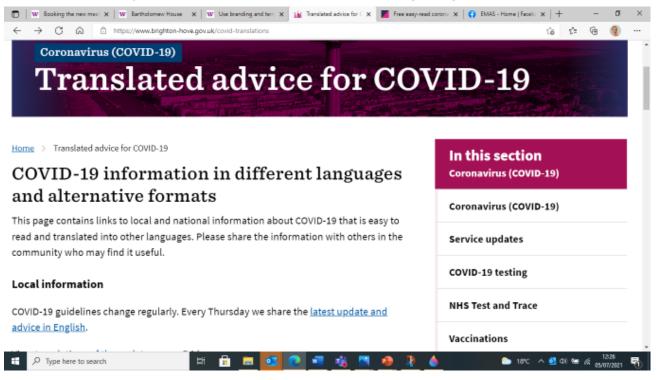


If you are not on the register ask your GP to add you or talk to someone you trust.



#### Communications and digital inclusion

- Translations survey to understand need and Ongoing translations of materials



# Mental and Physical Health

#### Mental & Physical Health

- Targeted communications on mental health support
- 6 films produced with diverse community members on lockdown experiences inch in BSL
- Feedback to GP surgeries on accessibility
- Marking days of importance to LGBTQ+ communities
- Mental Health Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Group re-established
- Targeted Healthy Lifestyles Team work
- Al those in receipt of HASC support contacted to offer support
- Information and support for people with learning disabilities and/or autism
- Senior Housing and Aging Well partnership support



# Mental and Physical Health



হাঁটা ভাল। হেলখ ওয়াক এর 'লক-ডাউন হাঁটার চ্যালেঞ্জ' আপনার পরিবারের সাখে চেষ্টা করে দেখুন।



আপনার মা'কে নিয়ে হেঁটে আসুন!



### **Test & Trace and Vaccines**

City Council

Ongoing Public Health Webinars for diverse community groups





## **Test & Trace and Vaccines**

- Key activities include
- Engagement with diverse groups on Test & Trace concerns
- Test & Trace FAQ published on BHCC website
- Analysis of demographics of vaccine uptake
- BAME Vaccine Confidence Working Group
- Targeted contact with wide list of groups across the City
- Liaison with diverse groups regarding appropriate sites for Mobile Vaccine Unit
- Translated materials
- Communications & welcome session for migrants and refugees



### **Test & Trace and vaccines**



#### COVID-19 vaccination for visitors, migrants and refugees

Please get the COVID-19 vaccination to protect yourself and your loved ones – it is free.

- Your information will not be shared with the Home Office
- Your information will not be shared with the police
- You do not need identity papers to get the vaccine
- You do not need an NHS number to get the vaccine
- You do not need to be registered with a doctor to get the vaccine

You only need to give your contact details – this information will not be shared with anyone else.





#### لقاح كوفيد-19 للزائرين والمهاجرين واللاجنين

يُرجى الحصول على لقاح كوهيد.19 لحماية نفسك وأحباتك - إنه مجالي.

- لن تدم مشاركة مطوماتك مع وزارة الداخلية
  - إن تتم مشار كة معلو ماثك مع الشرطة
- لست بحاجة لأى وثائق لإثبات الهوية لتلقى اللقاح
- لست بحاجة لرقم هيئة الصمحة الوطنية لتلقي اللقاح
- لعث يحاجة لأن تكون مُعنجالاً مع طيب لتُلقى اللقاح

كل ما طوك فعله هو توفير بهانات الاتصنال الخاصنة بك — علمًا بأنه لن تتم مشاركة هذه المعلومات مع أي شخص آخر



# **Next Steps**

- Continued collation of impacts regarding easing of lockdown
- Consideration of new reports eg Switchboard LGBTQ Survey results
- Updates on all actions within EAW Recommendations Action Plan
- Produce EAW Update Report
- Embed work into existing equalities mechanisms.

Contact:
Melinda King
Communities Equalities & Third Sector Team
Melinda.king@brighton-hove.gov.uk

