

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Slough Wellbeing Board

**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I**

#### **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **SLOUGH COVID-19 BAME (BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC PEOPLE) PILOT**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update and assurance to the board members on Slough COVID-19 BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people) Pilot Project. It describes the key work streams and synergies for the deliverability of the proposal including the management responsibilities, governance and reporting arrangements.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Board is recommended to:

- Note the contents of the report.
- Review progress of the Slough BAME Pilot in mid-Autumn 2020.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

This Declaration meets the priorities:

- Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities

The evidence shows that the burden of illness and death due to coronavirus (COVID-19) is not shouldered equally across the population. In particular, ethnicity has a huge impact. The risk of dying is higher among those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups than in White ethnic groups (caused by a result of many different factors). Given our population make-up, Slough is at higher risk of harms from Covid-19 and this has been evident in some of our patterns of Covid-19 illness to date.

A focus on reducing the negative impact of Covid-19 on those in the Slough population most at risk from the infection helps reduce the risk of widening health

inequalities and longer-term, may have benefits which more proactively reduce inequalities.

### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

This position statement will help to deliver:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

### 4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial - As a partner of the BAME pilot, Public Health are contributing some funding within the Public Health ring-fenced grant budget.

(b) Risk Management - none

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - There are no direct legal implications. There are no Human Rights Act Implications

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment - There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to this report.

### 5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The evidence shows that the burden of illness and death due to coronavirus (COVID-19) is not shouldered equally across the population. In particular, ethnicity has a huge impact.

5.2 The risk of dying is higher among those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups than in White ethnic groups (caused by a result of many different factors). Deprivation and lower socio-economic status also increases the risks from Covid-19. Given our population make-up, Slough is at higher risk of harms from Covid-19 and this has been evident in some of the Borough's patterns of illness to date. The work fits well within each of the pilot's partner organisations' declared commitment to tackle health inequalities and improve health.

5.3 The aim of the project, which started in rapid response to the emerging learning from the pandemic at the end of April, is to test approaches to protect residents from both direct and indirect harms of Covid-19 and mitigate its effect by reducing morbidity and mortality for future waves of the pandemic across Slough.

5.4 Since the BAME pilot started in Slough in May 2020, it has gained some regional and even national interest, particularly in NHSE and PHE – driven by a recognition of the inequitable impacts of Covid-19 on some communities and also related to the Black Lives Matter movement.

5.5 The report describes the partnership of public sector and community and voluntary sector organisations who, together, have designed the 5 workstreams of the BAME pilot – Communications and community engagement; Improving Information; Prevention and Harm reduction; Covid-19 Clinical Management and Workforce.

5.6 Updates on progress made over the last 9 weeks, are provided for each of the 5 workstreams. These bring to life the aim of each workstream and a more detailed description of the work already started or planned. The updates also outline in very practical terms how the work achieved to date has been used or its potential uses. For example, the existing Communications and Community Engagement workstream is already being used to good effect to support the newly nationally-mandated Local Outbreak Management Plan.

5.7 It would be beneficial to take stock on the pilot's progress against milestones and original objectives in approximately September 2020 in order to check its readiness for any future pandemic wave.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None.

7. **Conclusion**

The Slough Covid-19 BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People) pilot has been a rapid response to the emerging evidence of the inequitable impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on various BAME and low income communities in Slough.

It has pulled together a broad and diverse partnership of organisations (public and voluntary sector) with the common aim to develop and test approaches to protect residents from both direct and indirect harms of Covid-19 and mitigate its effect by reducing morbidity and mortality for future waves of the pandemic across Slough.

The BAME pilot is comprehensive and inclusive in its approach, creating a sense of common endeavour and a strong desire to use approaches developed both for the Covid-19 and in the future, for other health challenges.

Given the risk of future pandemic wave in late Autumn 2020, the pilot would benefit from review of progress against its original objectives.

8. **Appendices Attached**

A – Slough COVID-19 BAME Pilot Project Update – Jul 2020

9. **Background Papers**

None.