

# City & Hackney: commitment to reducing BAME health inequalities in mental health

**City of London Health & Wellbeing Board**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**



# The Synergi Collaborative



The Synergi Collaborative Centre is a five year national initiative, funded by Lankelly Chase, to frame, rethink and transform the realities of BAME inequalities in severe mental illness and multiple disadvantage.

The centre works closely with commissioners, policy makers and politicians as well as public service providers and services users.

**The collaborative aims to create and deliver a vision to help eradicate BAME inequalities in severe mental health illness and their fundamental causes.**

<https://synergicollaborativecentre.co.uk/>

# Synergi National Statement of Intent



Against the backdrop of George Floyd's killing, the Black Lives Matter anti-racist protests worldwide, and the systemic inequalities highlighted by Covid-19, CEOs, medical and nursing directors of NHS Mental Health Trusts, commissioners and public bodies are being asked to become pledge signatories and commit to:

1. Initiate fundamental service level changes to reduce ethnic inequalities in access, experience and outcomes.
2. Measure, monitor and report the nature and extent of ethnic inequalities and progress made.
3. Work in partnership with local BAME communities, service users and relevant community agencies.
4. Provide national leadership on this critical issue.
5. Ensure inclusive and sustainable change in our localities and communities.
6. Support timely and progressive research and policy development.
7. Contribute to a biannual progress update as part of this Statement of Intent.

# City and Hackney: current projects

The CoL Children Looked After and Care Leaver development group identified an increased mental health need for young people who were reporting experiences of physical torture in Libya (most had physical scarring as identified in LAC medicals) and signs of PTSD. This showed in the SDQ scores being slightly higher, and in the placement instability which has been increasing in 2020 – with young people not being ready to settle.

Care leavers between ages 18-25 often do not meet threshold for adult mental health services, and many have the additional pressure of uncertainty of immigration status, which affects mental wellbeing.

## City of London & Coram Early Intervention Project for UASC

The CoL is committed to supporting children and families who have experienced trauma which led to the joint CoL Coram project on Early Intervention for UASC, and to use the new CoL/Kings College London family therapy clinic to support UASCs, families supported via early help, children in need and those in need of protection.

## City of London & Kings College London Trainee Family Therapy Clinic

The Family Therapy Clinic is a systemic intervention, offering a direct means of working with children and their families, wider systems or couples as parents of children and young people. Drawing on a range of evidence based systemic interventions, trainees will work directly with up to 8 individuals/families a month to address emotional and behavioural needs. The Clinic, run in conjunction with Institute of Psychiatry, psychology and neuroscience (IOPPN) at King's College London (KCL) will consist of 3-4 qualifying level KCL trainees and 1-2 certificate level CoL frontline practitioners.

# CoL current work continued

**Objective 1:** To improve sleep of UASC to in turn reduce impact of trauma

*[A baseline study is in place, from which to measure impact]*

**Objective 2:** is to improve emotional and behavioural wellbeing of children looked after, care leavers, and resident children in the City open to children's services

**Objective 3:** to improve emotional and behavioural wellbeing of UASC aged 18-25 who would not meet the threshold for adult mental health services.

*[Impact will be measured biannually, in conjunction with KCL]*

# COVID-19's Impact on Inequalities in City & Hackney

An inequalities toolkit has been produced for use in incorporating inequalities considerations into planning in City and Hackney. The toolkit includes:

- Inequalities matrix Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) checklist
- Summary of inequalities evidence and impact in City and Hackney

**Next steps:** to support City & Hackney's integrated system to review and develop their restoration plans with the aid of the toolkit.

# System wide Equality & Diversity group

City and Hackney's system wide Equality & Diversity group are working to embed equality based decision making within system working, including:

- Working with system partners to Co-produce an EIA tool and guidance for larger system initiatives, strategies and schemes and to ensure EIA reporting in a meaningful way
- Identify a senior level champion to help embed equality-based thinking and analysis into system working
- Report back to SOCCG, ICB, AOG, and ICCEEG to emphasise their role/responsibility in helping to embed routine use of EIAs
- Promote the EIA checklist
- Develop and deliver training on what an EIA is, its benefits, and how to undertake them.

# Ask to City of London Heath & Wellbeing Board

## Agree to sign up to the Synergi National Statement of Intent

1. Initiate fundamental service level changes to reduce ethnic inequalities in access, experience and outcomes.
2. Measure, monitor and report the nature and extent of ethnic inequalities and progress made.
3. Work in partnership with local diverse communities, people and relevant community agencies.
4. Provide national leadership on this critical issue.
5. Ensure inclusive and sustainable change in our localities and communities.
6. Support timely and progressive research and policy development.
7. Contribute to a biannual progress update as part of this Statement of Intent.