

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board - For Information	Dated: 18 February 2022
Subject: Synergi Pledge Makers Progress Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health	For Information
Report author: Andrew Trathen, Consultant in Public Health	

Summary

Alongside local NHS partners, the Health and Wellbeing Boards are signatories to the Synergi pledge to reduce ethnic mental health inequalities. This paper summarises the Synergi Pledge Makers Progress report submitted in November 2021. Key areas of progress are highlighted, alongside areas of challenge, and the report authors welcome feedback from the board to inform our system-wide approach to the pledge for future progress reports.

Recommendation(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the content of the progress report;
- Note further activities underway which will feature in subsequent reports; and,
- Advise on issues and areas of activity at a system level that should become a focus in the next and subsequent bi-annual reports.

Main Report

1. The Synergi collaborative is a five-year national initiative, funded by Lankelly Chase, to reframe, rethink and transform the realities of ethnic inequalities in severe mental illness and multiple disadvantage.
2. In Autumn 2020 the Health and Wellbeing Boards of the City of London and Hackney were approached by NHS partners to become signatories to the Synergi pledge to reduce ethnic inequalities in mental health. Both Boards agreed to become signatories. In Spring 2021, the Boards became formal signatories (represented by the Chairs, Mayor Philip Glanville and Member Marianne Fredericks respectively) in conjunction with NHS North East London Clinical Commissioning Group, City and Hackney Integrated Care Partnership and North East London Health and Care Partnership.

3. This work has been initiated and led by NHS partners Rhiannon England, Mental Health Clinical Lead, and Fawzia Bakht, Mental Health Project manager. They are being supported by Andrew Trathen, Consultant in Public Health in City and Hackney.
4. Signatories to the pledge are committed to support the following statement of intent as described by Synergi:

As senior leaders of mental health services and commissioners of mental health care, we will:

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 BME 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 Pledge.*
5. Across City and Hackney we understand the scale of the challenge that tackling ethnic inequalities in mental health represents. The interaction between ethnicity and deprivation affects mental health treatment outcomes, and City and Hackney covers very deprived areas. Although we are fortunate to have an outstanding voluntary and community sector, the operational and strategic priorities created by the pandemic continue to constrain our collective ability to respond.
 6. Despite these challenges, we continue to make progress and the Synergi pledge provides an opportunity to reflect and re-focus on our priorities. Pledge makers are expected to report twice per year on progress. The first of these reports was submitted in November 2021, included as Appendix 1. A shortened summary of responses to the individual commitments is included below.
 7. ***Pledge commitment 1: Initiate fundamental service level changes to reduce ethnic inequalities in access, experience and outcomes.***
 - NHS commissioning of Growing Minds project
 - Appointment of NHS equality strategy lead
 - NHS commissioned The Advocacy Project to coordinate a user representative group
 - Hackney developing its work around Young Black Men
 - Continuation of the Hackney commissioned Mental Health Wellbeing Network, which has specific reach into ethnic minority communities
 - Use of Better Mental Health Grant to support new interventions from community providers to tackle mental health impacts of Covid-19, including providers such as Coffee Afrique and SWIM, supporting African and Caribbean Heritage (ACH) communities

- City of London supporting the mental health of unaccompanied asylum seekers
 - City of London corporation, City of London Police and the CCG jointly commissioning a Mental Health Street Triage outreach team which is undergoing evaluation
 - NEL CCG most successful in the UK with highest percentage of NHSE health checks for people with severe mental illness, which disproportionately affects those from ethnic minorities
8. ***Pledge commitment 2: Measure, monitor and report the nature and extent of ethnic inequalities and progress made.***
- Working with providers to improve reporting on outcomes by ethnicity, including improvement of coding
9. ***Pledge commitment 3: Work in partnership with local BAME communities, service users and relevant community agencies.***
- Hackney Caribbean Elderly Organisation commissioned to deliver dementia outreach and awareness program
 - Hackney CVS delivering Open Minds, a multi-agency partnership of local ACH organisations to address mental ill health
 - SWIM (support when it matters) commissioned to improve ACH referrals to talking therapies
 - City and Hackney commissions three VSO providers for IAPT services to Charedi, Turkish & Kurdish, and ACH communities.
 - IRIE MIND commended as a best and promising practice example
 - City and Hackney has highest rate of BAME IAPT recovery in London and access rates for the top 3 BAME communities are in line with relative population sizes
 - IAPT providers work closely together through the Psychological Therapies Alliance and have been asked to monitor the following:
 - BAME access rates overall and per specific community
 - BAME Recovery Rates
 - LGBTQ Access rates
 - Older Adult Access Rates
 - Access rates per postcode comparing access and deprivation.
10. ***Pledge commitment 4: Provide national leadership on this critical issue.***
- Attendance at national PHE webinars on health inequalities and representation on Synergi Board
 - Joined Centre for Mental Health campaign for reducing health inequality
 - Letter published in the BMJ on inequality in health.
11. ***Pledge commitment 5: Ensure inclusive and sustainable change in our localities and communities.***
- Linking with Thrive London/Newham initiative to develop specific faith and culturally competent resources
 - Developing Five to Thrive website

12. ***Pledge commitment 6: Support timely and progressive research and policy development.***
 - City and Hackney Public Health Intelligence Team and Population Health Hub aiming to identify inequalities in referral and treatment pathways
13. ***Pledge commitment 7: Contribute to a biannual progress update as part of this Statement of Intent.***
 - We intend to continue contributing biannual progress updates
14. Although we believe that work across the system shows progress towards the commitments, we know that challenges remain with much work to do. Further activities which will be developed and included in subsequent reports include:
 - A second phase of grants as part of the Better Mental health fund to allow more organisations to offer interventions to underserved communities
 - Develop the Growing Minds and Open Minds projects
 - Improved collaboration with Voluntary and Community Sector
 - Strengthening links between NHS and local authority to facilitate shared learning, such as with Hackney's innovative racialised trauma peer support groups
15. The authors note that becoming signatories to a pledge will not in itself tackle the problem we are seeking to solve. However, the pledge has so far provided an opportunity to reflect on the areas where we are making good progress, clarified the challenges that need to be overcome, and provided a foundation for strengthened collaboration between partners at a system level.
16. We welcome feedback and perspectives from both members of the board and wider partners to identify which areas ought to become our focus as we move towards the next progress report.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to :

- Note the content of the progress report;
- Note further activities underway which will feature in subsequent reports; and,
- Advise on issues and areas of activity at a system level that should become a focus in the next and subsequent bi-annual reports.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – This work aligns with the City's Corporate Plan to *contribute to a flourishing society*

Financial implications - none

Resource implications - none

Legal implications - none

Risk implications - none

Equalities implications – This work supports the reduction of ethnic inequalities in mental health

Climate implications - none

Security implications - none

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Inaugural Synergi Pledge Makers Progress Report (Nov 2021)

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