

Summary of BAME VCS – Future Scoping Meeting held 30th June 2020

Use of the Term BAME

There is a growing discontent with the use of the term BAME which does not allow for individuality within and between ethnic groups and can make for lazy generalisations. This is a national debate which we need to be in tune with locally.

Health Messaging/Communications

Concerns around track and trace and trust within the BAME community. The BME Health Forum has worked with Imperial Healthcare Trust to develop videos on hospital safety in different languages including Somali, Arabic, Farsi and Kurdish. This demonstrates what can be done if working collaboratively across to improve communication with non-English speaking residents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZZldKPeNY8&feature=youtu.be>

Digital divide

One of the biggest issues relating to larger size, disadvantaged families with the digital divide having a disproportionate impact on BAME families. Digital exclusion for older BAME people has also been raised as a concern.

Health & wellbeing

General discontent over disproportionate impact of Covid 19 on the BAME population. Growing concerns over the mental deterioration of older BAME people who are feeling increasingly isolated as they can no longer socialise in groups. The cultural connectedness is being lost due to C19. Need free access to PPE for families struggling financially.

Voice

Statutory sector need to hear the voice of BAME residents directly, but also need to work with BAME groups on how to communicate/reach out to BAME residents whose voices are rarely or never heard.

Direct Support for BAME organisations

There has been no additional support/resource given to BAME VCOs given the disproportionate impact of C19 on BAME community. What has been the council's attempt to reach out and better engage with BAME communities?

Inequalities & Influence

There is a real sense from BAME organisations that they are unable to influence any decision making around the issues of inequality and injustice. Organisations want a focussed lens on BAME issues and want to be a part in co-production of services. We can learn from what is happening elsewhere to shape this agenda. Also what took place in Westminster with Council involvement is a positive start. [Slides from the Westminster meeting here.](#)

Recommendations

- RBKC to assess the impact of C19 on BAME communities in relation to employment, digital divide, housing etc.
- RBKC to look at the Westminster meeting notes and actions – how are actions being applied within Kensington and Chelsea.
- Support the development of a Race Equalities Board with representatives from across the BAME VCS and communities.
- RBKC to work with Health and VCS Colleagues to review, implement the recommendations and retain oversight from the findings of the Public Health report into the impact of Covid 19 on the BAME population, with a commitment to develop co produced targeted services for the BAME population at risk.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

- RBKC/WLCCG to provide targeted funding for BAME organisations
- Work with BAME organisations to retain oversight on what is happening within the BAME community in response to potential ongoing impact of C19.