

Report to Engagement Board/ Outbreak Management Board



Date of Meeting	18 November 2020
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Healthy Lives
Report Author	Director of Public Health
Public/Private Document	Public

Equalities Assembly - Update Report

Executive Summary

1. Rochdale Borough Equalities Assemblies are a series of quarterly events, for people who work in and contribute to the borough, including grassroots organisations, statutory partners and volunteers.
 - 1.1 The aim of the assemblies is to listen and learn. Conversation topics are brought to the Assembly by people who understand inequality, through experience, though supporting others or through insight, data and intelligence.

Recommendation

2. That the report be noted.

Reason for Recommendation

3. The update is required to ensure that the Engagement Board/ Outbreak Management Board are notified of working developments across partners.

Key Points for Consideration

4. The Rochdale Borough Equalities Assemblies meeting was held in October 2020. Attendees broke into working groups which considered a number of key themes.

4.1 **11 Grassroots led conversations**

- Inequalities within Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities
- COVID19 and Older People
- Choices and Chances for young people
- Black History Month and 'Back to School'
- COVID19 and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Inequality
- COVID19 and Patient Access
- Black Lives Matter
- Learning Disabilities and the Disability Forum
- Multiple Disadvantage, Mental Health and Addiction
- Digital Poverty and Inclusion
- 'Open Space' inequality discussion

- 4.2 The event was attended by over 100 people including residents, volunteers, VCFSE organisations, RBC and CCG partners. It was Facilitated by Action Together and planned with Rochdale Council, Public Health and Communication partners, HMR CCG Equality Diversity Inclusion Strategic Lead and VCFSE sector partners. Healthwatch Rochdale captured demographics of the attendees. Statutory Partners provided us with details of who attended the event.

4.3 **Some feedback from attendees**

“For me what works and what I personally feel is so important with the Assembly, is that people who would not usually have an opportunity to listen to someone from another group, are able to.”

“Thank you for providing me an opportunity to become the voice of so many, who have potential to contribute towards society but are waiting for that vital support they need.”

"When we see potential, we need to encourage and support, encourage role models and fight for rights."

“As a Rochdale resident with Selective Mutism I’d like to see the borough be more communication accessible”

“I’m positive this will have an impact on all our individuals who need our services across the borough”

4.4 **Key themes raised/learning**

- Female leadership and representation, much of the community organising and local leadership has been undertaken by women
- Isolation, mental health and wellbeing is a key concern in communities
- Training for VCFSE staff is needed around use of tech, inc. testing processes

- Peer support model is key around financial support and personal resilience
- Need to support communities and individuals to be able to challenge behaviour and risk safely
- Arts, culture and volunteering are methods to engage people and help people 'feel part' of community response to the pandemic and encourage a whole community approach to tackling inequality
- There is positivity within the pandemic; need to share real stories of hope

4.5 **Next Steps**

- Report to be produced and shared via #TogetherRochdale comms group, including Healthwatch evaluation focused on demographics
- Follow up conversation to be arranged around Mental Health support for Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, supported by Thinking Ahead
- Follow up conversation to be arranged around female leadership and representation
- #WednesdaysWeekly being arranged on
 - Resilience, led by Elephant Trail
 - How to challenge behaviour of others safely and with respect, supported by RCSP
 - All presenters and conversation hosts to share breakout room conversation more widely (recorded and shared on YouTube)
- LGBT Foundation and Rochdale in Rainbows engaged further in Action Together community led networks to bring new voices into conversations
- Potential Voluntary Sector Partnership event

4.6 Attendees given the opportunity to engage with Food Solutions Network, Economic Support Network, Women's Services Forum, Disability Forum, Inclusive Messaging Group, Digitech Library and other collaboration opportunities

Costs and Budget Summary

5. There are no specific budgetary implications within the report.

Risk and Policy Implications

6. There are no specific related risks and policy implications within the report.

Consultation

7. No consultation undertaken.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
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8. Here you should detail any background papers –	None
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For Further Information Contact:	Andrea Fallon (Director of Public Health)
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