

# Report to Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board

<b>Date:</b>	8 July 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Health inequalities and the impact of Covid-19
<b>Report From:</b>	Kirsty Bell and Chris Caden, Hackney Public Health Team
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>Covid-19 has had a huge impact on all of our lives; however it is evident that the health and social impacts of the disease may worsen existing health inequalities. Public Health England (PHE) has reviewed the available data on Covid-19 cases and deaths to begin to assess the extent to which certain groups are affected more than others.</p> <p>The Public Health team has undertaken a rapid review of the available research on health inequalities during Covid-19 and has looked at these findings alongside local data. In Hackney, we have found that, as with national data, mortality rates are higher amongst older people and men. They are also higher among people who are not born in the UK, with country of birth used as a proxy for ethnicity.</p>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>The Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review the information provided on health inequalities and Covid-19 in terms of the direct health impacts of the disease and the indirect social consequences;</li> <li>● Consider how we may want to understand these issues in greater depth; and</li> <li>● Agree to the development of a working group to consider how some of these issues can be practically addressed.</li> </ul>
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## Introduction

The impact of Covid-19 on our communities is likely to be ongoing for some time. National research has begun to show that older people, men, and people from Black and Asian communities have had disproportionately high rates of infection. PHE has also found that these groups have higher mortality rates, even when accounting for social deprivation and other factors.

Hackney is the 6<sup>th</sup> most diverse London Borough and the 18<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority area in England. With this context in mind, it is important to understand the impact that Covid-19 has had, and will continue to have, on health inequalities. It is anticipated that the period of lockdown will also have unequal social consequences due to the economic consequences of job losses and redundancies.

This presentation has sought to synthesize the available research and evidence base on the impact of Covid-19 in the short term and beyond.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that considerations are given as to what work is needed to address some of the anticipated challenges and issues that have been highlighted. This includes considering how we work best with partners across the local health and care system and in the community and voluntary sector, to support residents.

### **Financial Considerations**

At present there are no financial consequences as more work is needed to understand the issues locally and to ensure that the relevant local organisations and communities are involved in discussions.

### **Legal Considerations**

No immediate legal implications arising from this report

### **Attachments**

The powerpoint presentation has been attached.