

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 27 July 2020	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Covid 19 pandemic impact and inequalities	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Jin Lim, Acting Director of Public Health	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To receive the report and presentation on the Covid 19 pandemic impact on the health and wellbeing of Southwark's population (Appendix 1)
2. To note the health inequalities impact and to request that officers develop a framework for tackling health inequalities to inform the refresh of the health and wellbeing strategy for Southwark.
3. To request a report back on the health inequalities framework in September.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Health inequalities and COVID

4. National reports have highlighted the disproportionate impact of COVID on our communities in Southwark¹. Locally, we have also begun the process of pulling together more granular data to better understand the impacts so that our recovery process across the system takes into account the need to build in actions that secures equity for the most affected. Impacts have included:
 - Between 1 March and 17 April 2020 the deprived areas in England had more than double the mortality rate from COVID-19 than the least deprived areas.
 - Trends in diagnosed cases of COVID-19 show that cases in the least deprived quintile peaked earlier and at a lower level than those in other groups.
 - Differences in risk between ethnic groups that are not currently explained by age, deprivation, housing composition, education, region, rural / urban setting, or health status at the time of the 2011 Census.
 - When taking account of these factors, the risk of COVID-19 related death among Black ethnic groups is almost twice than among those of white ethnicity.
 - A very strong association of more severe disease and death with older age groups – those aged 80 and over are 70 times more likely to die than those aged under 40.
 - Higher risks of death in males than females.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The key local issues highlighting how Southwark has been affected and the health inequalities implications for consideration are set out in detail in Appendix 1.

¹ "Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19", Public Health England, June 2020

6. Both Public Health England and the Health Foundation² particularly note that

² <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/long-reads/will-covid-19-be-a-watershed-moment-for-health-inequalities>

- That national and local government, businesses and wider society all have a role to play in giving everyone the opportunity to live a healthy life
- That there is a duty for all to tackle the structural disadvantage and discrimination faced by parts of the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities
- Restoring the nation to good health will require renewed energy and commitment backed by a national approach across government departments and a commitment to develop and implement local approaches to tackle health inequalities. Action needed will include protecting incomes, improving the quality of jobs accessible to the most disadvantaged, creating affordable homes of good quality, and supporting critical voluntary and community services including strong advocacy and community empowerment and development approaches.

7. Public engagement and stakeholder discussions have started in July as part of the Southwark Stands Together Programme with further engagement work planned through Social Life surveys and workshops and with VCS partners. The discussions and findings will shape the health inequalities framework for the borough. This framework will be reported back in September.

Community impact statement

8. Appendix 1 describes in detail the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the health of Southwark's population. A framework to tackle health inequalities is proposed which will be reported back in September.

Legal implications

9. There are no specific legal implications arising from this paper.

Finance implications

10. There are no immediate finance implications.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Covid 19 impact on health and wellbeing in Southwark

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jin Lim, Acting Director of Public Health
Report Author	Sylvia Garry, Consultant in Public Health
Version	Final
Dated	19 July 2020