

Item No. 9	Classification: Open	Date: 14 March 2024	Meeting Name: Health & Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Impact on Urban Health: Inequalities Research	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Peter Babudu - Impact on Urban Health Mike Rigby - Impact on Urban Health Nicky Duncanova - Impact on Urban Health Anne Kazimirski - Impact on Urban Health	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Health & Wellbeing Board;

1. Note the findings of the research and inequalities experienced by residents in Southwark.
2. Assess policy and service decisions against the experiences and concerns identified through this research.
3. Identify other forums where this research should be presented.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. While there have been improvements in health and wellbeing in Southwark over the last decade, we know that significant inequalities remain. These are both unfair and avoidable.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living have, and continue to, exacerbate the inequalities we see in the borough. Those from disadvantaged neighbourhoods along with residents from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority backgrounds are often those experiencing the poorest health and wellbeing.
6. While we have some local intelligence on the inequalities faced by our residents, we recognise there are significant gaps in our understanding. Impact on Urban Health has worked closely with Southwark Public Health Division and Lambeth to commission local research to give partners a better understanding of inequalities in our boroughs and the population groups most impacted.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. Opinium Research and ClearView were commissioned by Impact on Urban Health in 2023 to conduct research on the health and wellbeing of residents in Southwark and Lambeth. The research involved both a quantitative survey and a series of focus groups with local residents.

8. Focusing the research on issues that matter most to residents was a critical part of this work. ClearView worked with eight local residents and provided training in community research methodologies and the subject areas they would be investigating. To complement the quantitative research being managed by Opinium, focus groups hosted by ClearView which provided a deeper understanding of the issues residents find most pressing, such as housing, trust, and discrimination.
9. A quantitative survey of over 5,000 residents in Southwark and Lambeth was undertaken to build a holistic view of factors that affect health and wellbeing. The large sample size enabled detailed analysis of how a range of factors, such as age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, housing status or access to green space coincide to impact the health of our residents.
10. Two key themes have emerged from the research:
 - A person's likelihood of being in good health was most likely to be influenced by their degree of financial security, education level, housing tenure and conditions, ethnicity, gender, and LGBTQ+ status.
 - The insights into health and wellbeing provided by residents of Lambeth and Southwark highlight significant disparities in health influenced by a complex interplay of structural discrimination, trust in and access to healthcare, housing quality, and broader social and economic determinants of health.
11. Other specific findings include:
 - Overall, residents are positive about local services. However, 1 in 5 indicate a level of distrust in healthcare professionals, increasing further among younger adults and those from a Black ethnic background.
 - Over two thirds of residents are concerned about air pollution
 - A third of residents report feeling lonely either some, often, or all of the time. This compared to 22% in England.
 - Levels of good health are notably lower among residents in rented accommodation.

Policy framework implications

12. While there are no direct policy framework implications, this research compliments and enhances our understanding of health and wellbeing in Southwark. Findings of this work should contribute to the development of local policies and services across the partnership.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

13. Co-production with our communities is a key principle underpinning the Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy. The focus and design of this research has been co-developed with local residents, reflecting their priorities as well as those of statutory partners.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

14. The research was designed to enhance our understanding of local geographic and demographic inequalities across Southwark and Lambeth. By improving our understanding of local inequalities our partners are better able to tackle the root causes and tailor local support to the needs of our residents.

Health impact statement

15. The research was designed to provide a better understanding of health status, access and experience of care services and issues relating to the wider determinants of health. In addition, the research enables partners to identify the intersectionality between issues and how they overlap and reinforce health inequalities in the borough.

Climate change implications

16. No direct implications.

Resource implications

17. No direct implications.

Legal implications

18. No direct implications.

Financial implications

19. No direct implications.

Consultation

20. This research was developed in partnership with members of our community, with questions reflecting issues important to them. Over 5,000 residents across Southwark and Lambeth took part in the survey, ensuring the findings are representative of our population.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Impact on Urban Health inequalities Research

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chris Williamson	
Report Author	Michael Rigby, Impact on Urban Health	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 February 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
List other officers here	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		1 March 2024