

UPDATE REPORT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION - APRIL 2021

Children And Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Equality Monitoring Task and Finish Group

From the Director of Commissioning, Children's and Adults' Services

1. Introduction

The Children & Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Joint Working Group is overseeing a project which enables Southwark to demonstrate and to be assured that any inequalities within children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health provision are identified and addressed, and that learning is reflected in planning of future provision.

The project includes analysis of both quantitative data and qualitative data which helps to identify barriers to access and includes analysis of whether there is either over or under representation or any group or groups in specific services.

The primary focus for phase one of this project is to investigate provision which is accessed by Southwark's black and minority ethnic population but it is intended that, over time, the research will be extended to other groups, for example, LGBTQ+, those with special educational needs and disabilities, etc...

2. Project Group Membership

The project group includes a range of stakeholders including the lead for children and young people's (mental health) clinical services in Children's and Adults' Services, practitioners from SLAM (provider of CAMHS) and service development leads from commissioned services, Groundwork London (provider of The Nest) and Kooth plc (provider of KOOTH). Project management is undertaken by the Partnership Southwark Commissioning Team.

3. Activity to date

In February providers reported back on their audits of provision. The group has been able to identify good practice and also to recognise where further action is required. Actions plans to address relevant issues are due to be presented in this month, April .

Some areas of good practice are noted as:

- Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework is being implemented
- Equality & Diversity training is mandatory for all staff
- Diversity champions are being identified from within the workforce
- Access to interpreters is generally good
- Specific staffing placement programmes to encourage applicants from BAME groups are being introduced

Areas that require focus:-

- Recording of ethnicity is not always recorded
- The current recording of outcomes does not enable comment on whether there is a BAME outcome bias.
- The diversity of the workforce – to varying degrees amongst providers - is not representative of the population they serve
- There is a lack of resources in languages other than English
- There is a lack of training/provision in culturally adapted therapies
- Workshops & participation events for children and young people are generic – consideration of BAME groups is not consistent across providers
- Nothing specific in place for asylum seekers/refugees

4. Population Data and ethnicity recording

The group has agreed baseline school age population ethnicity data taken from Primary, Secondary and Special Schools data as at Jan 2019

School age population ethnicity data:

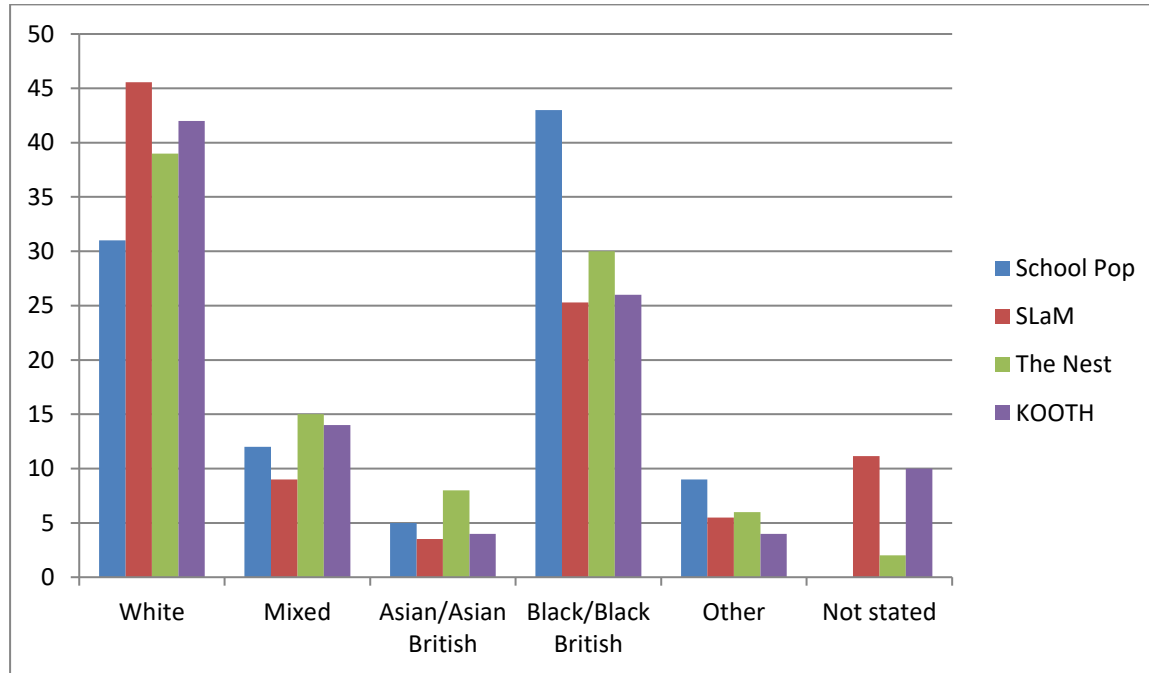
	%
White	31
Mixed	12
Asian or Asian British	5
Black or Black British	43
Other ethnic group	9

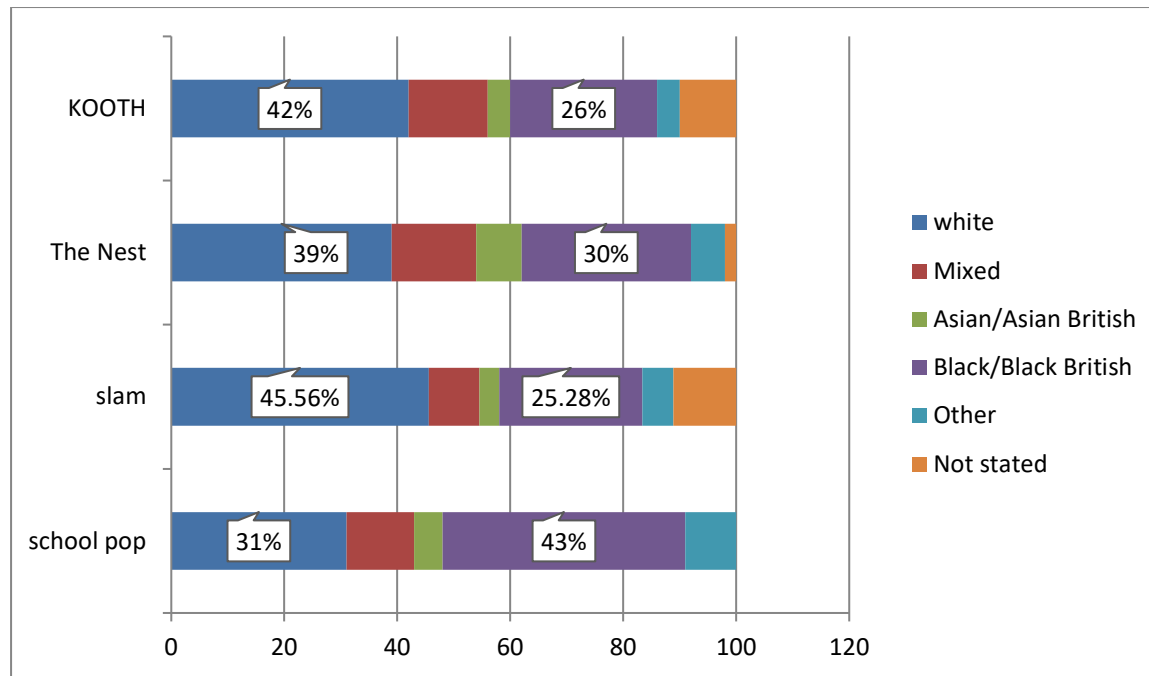
(The group recognise that there are emerging changes Southwark's demographics, with a significant increase in 'Latin American' population but 'Latin American' is not currently separately reported for data collection purposes.)

A comparison of current population data and provider data is shown in the attached graphs and detailed in the following table.

	School Age Population (%)	CAMHS (%)	The Nest (%)	KOOTH (%)
White	31	46	22	42
Mixed	12	9	8	14
Asian or Asian British	5	3	6	4
Black or Black British	43	25	36	26
Other ethnic group	9	6	10	4
Not stated	0	11	18	10

Graphs comparing the ethnicity reporting across school population, SLaM, The Nest & KOOH (available data 15 April 2021)





A brief analysis identifies that:-

- Conversely, there appears to be under representation - to varying degrees - of those within the black/black British group – again, across all providers.
- The variance within the mixed group and the Asian/Asian British group is less marked, with The Nest slightly over-performing in these categories
- The numbers for ‘not stated’ are high and potentially mask significant numbers which might either improve access data for those who appear to be under represented, or which might increase disparities. It is crucial that providers endeavour to fully record ethnicity data.

5. **Southwark Stands Together (SST)**

Action planning from this group will be added to the SST Best Start in Life action plan, including plans for stakeholder engagement. Key Performance Indicators and agreed outputs will be identified in partnership with the SST group which will have some oversight on monitoring progress against actions.

6. **Actions for next reporting period**

It is important that this group is able to drive change where it is identified as needed and provide assurance that activity is happening.

- Agree areas where providers work together, including stakeholder engagement, information leaflets in different languages, consider possibility of working together on a communication strategy.
- Consider how Health Inequalities Framework becomes embedded within provider activity
- We are undertaking deeper analysis of BAME data on some specific groups, i.e. children in care, young people in the justice system, children and young people on child protection plans
- Consider whether Kooth's monitoring of times of the day that young people from BAME communities make contact might be informative in terms of service provision
- Review SLAM's monitoring of the ethnicity of those referred for emergency assessments.

7. **Items for further consideration**

- One of the early tasks for the group was to ensure that service user representation is also reflected in this work. There is currently a lot of engagement being driven by the Southwark Stands Together (SST) agenda.
- Baseline population data is based on school aged children only. Need to agree baseline for 0–5 group.
- Capturing information and data about the Latin American community

8. **Mental Health First Aid in Schools**

As part of “Improving Mental Health and Resilience in Schools” (IMHARS) project, there are more than 260 Mental Health First Aiders in schools across Southwark who play an important role in spotting the signs of mental health issues in a young person. Mental Health First Aiders have the skills and confidence to offer first aid and guide a young person towards the support they need, as well as speed up a young person’s recovery and stop a mental health issue from getting worse.

MH First Aiders in schools support resilience-building and bolster wellbeing, so that children and young people feel confident in coping with any challenges they may face. School-based interventions, like MH First Aiders and others, can help improve the quality of children’s home lives and family relationships, ensuring more children live in stronger families.