

## Equality and Diversity Council Meeting Paper

29<sup>th</sup> July 2014

### Data Measurement Subgroup

#### Purpose and context

One of the agreed priorities of the EDC is to focus upon ensuring the availability of and access to the data and tools required to measure our progress in advancing equality and tackling health inequalities. In taking forward this priority, a data measurement subgroup has been established with members drawn from key partner organisations.

The EDC Subgroup on Data Measurement has 3 output-orientated objectives that relate to: (i) development and roll-out of agreed questions/response codes covering protected characteristics and dimensions of health inequalities for monitoring purposes; (ii) identification of gaps and issues in current data sources and collections – and proactive steps to address; (iii) implementation of a strategic approach to consistent recording and use of this data in major levers (e.g. F&F Test, NHS Patient Survey, NHS Staff Survey).

#### Action taken to date

A Sexual Orientation Monitoring (SOM) task and finish group has been established, composed of representation from key organisations from health and care and beyond.

A proposal for the disaggregation of the NHS Outcomes Framework by equality and health inequalities groups has been drafted.

A draft Equality Monitoring Guide exists – that outlines, for patient and staff monitoring purposes, the questions and response codes for the nine protected characteristics.

#### Current position

NHS organisations are challenged by lack of available data on a number of health inequalities dimensions and protected characteristics. The publication of the Equality Monitoring Guide (EMG) has been delayed due to variances in the definitions currently in use for some protected characteristics and robust debate around proposed questions and response codes for the monitoring of some of the nine protected characteristics.

To support the work on this, the following will be carried out: NHS England to produce a position paper on equality monitoring which scopes the definitions and collections currently in use or recommended, ensuring alignment with and reference to the data dictionary definitions where available; highlighting organisational examples of where, for what purpose, and why specific definitions have been chosen or recommended for use. The position paper will also highlight the work underway with regard to Information Standards – **by October 2014.**

NHS England/DH/PHE to co-produce a project plan for developing an Information Standard relating to data monitoring– first draft **by October 2014**. This will address data standards, rollout into information systems, supporting capability building of staff and culture-shift to enable consistent collection and the production of guidance regarding use of data and monitoring.

### **Key risks**

- Lack of capacity and buy-in from cross-organisations to be members and to drive work.
- A risk of not taking this work forward includes:
  - a failure to improve our understanding of how people’s differences can affect their access to services, experiences, health outcomes;
  - a lack of quantitative data to help support the meeting of legal duties with regard to equality and health inequalities.

### **Next steps**

1. To produce a position paper on the data definitions and monitoring of equality and health inequalities characteristics, and the current standpoint with regard to variance in use by October 2014
2. NHS England/DH/PHE to co-produce a project plan for developing an Information Standard relating to data monitoring by October 2014

### **Recommendation and action requested**

For the EDC to note and provide high level buy-in and support to the work outlined as above.

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**On behalf of the Data Measurement Subgroup of the EDC**  
**July 2014**