

# Equality and Diversity Council Meeting Paper

30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## Data Measurement Subgroup

### Purpose and context

An agreed priority 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 was established with members drawn from key partner organisations.

### Actions taken to date

- A position paper outlining the questions and codes currently used and where they are mandated for equality and health inequalities within established data collections has been drafted. This paper also sets the scene for, and provides an update on, the development of Information Standards for equality data collections.
- A Sexual Orientation Monitoring (SOM) task and finish group has been established and has produced a paper outlining the business case for the collection of sexual orientation data.
- NHS England has committed resource to progress work on taking forward the development of an Information Standard on sexual orientation data monitoring.

### Current position

The Subgroup is finalising the position paper on equality and health inequalities monitoring and will publish it for the system. The paper is at the final stages of internal NHS England ratification processes.

Work on developing and refreshing Information Standard(s) on equality within all NHS, and potentially adult social care, data collections is in progress. This will start with sexual orientation in the first instance.

Working with partner organisations, NHS England is progressing on the reporting of health inequalities and the attainment of sub-national breakdowns of some of the health inequalities indicators for the NHS Outcomes Framework.

### Key risks

Consequential risks of not taking this work forward include:

- a lack of direction for NHS organisations re: data collections to help support the meeting of legal duties with regard to equality and health inequalities;
- a failure to improve our understanding of how people's differences can affect their access to services, experiences and health outcomes;
- a lack of evidence to help plan equitable services for diverse populations and organise workplaces that are accessible and free from discrimination

## **Next steps**

- Publish the position paper on equality and health inequalities monitoring.
- Commence work on developing an Information Standard for sexual orientation
- Assessment of most effective way to develop and refresh other Information Standard (s) to ensure the Equality Act protected characteristics are integral to data collections. , NHS England to continue to work with partner organisations on the alignment and breakdown of national health inequalities indicators.

## **Recommendation and action requested**

For the EDC to note the above.

**John Holden**

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

**January 2015**