

## Equality and Diversity Council Meeting Paper

28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### Data Measurement Subgroup Update

#### 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 produced and published on the NHS England website. This paper also provides an update on the development of Information Standards for equality data collections: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/monitrg-ehi-pos-paper.pdf>
- NHS England has committed resource to progress work on taking forward the development of an Information Standard on sexual orientation data monitoring. The LGFT Foundation was successful in its bid for taking forward this work. This viewed as the first phase of developing Information Standards for data collections for each of the equality characteristics.
- NHS England has worked with the Department of Health to further develop the NHS Outcomes Framework so that in 2015/16 a range of the indicators will be health inequality assessed.

#### Current position

Building upon the momentum of the sexual orientation Information Standard for data collection, work on developing further Information Standards on equality for the NHS and adult social care is in progress. An options appraisal for the batching of equality characteristics to be taken forward is being produced.

Working with the DH, we will continue to develop the reporting of health inequalities and 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**

- Continue work on developing an Information Standard for sexual orientation data collections.
- Develop a work programme for the development of other Information Standards to ensure that all characteristics given protection under the Equality Act 2010 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 both note the above, and recommendations of the batching of equality characteristics options appraisal, as presented in the Annex.

**John Holden**

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

**April 2015**