

Equality and Diversity Council Meeting Paper

28th July 2015

Inclusion Health Subgroup

Purpose and context

The subgroup has a vision to tackle health inequalities and advance equality for all. Its purpose is to assist the shaping of the future of the NHS from an equality, health inequalities and human rights perspective, working to improve equity of access to services and improved outcomes for the most disadvantaged groups, people with Lived Experience of stark inequalities and those with protected characteristics by 2017. The establishment of the subgroup was proposed as part of the EDC Review in April 2015.

Governance

The subgroup will report to the EDC. A core membership has been identified and a wider virtual reference group is to be established. The chairing arrangements are to be firmed up at the first full meeting of the subgroup. The subgroup has established a draft terms of reference.

Work programme

The group has established an embryonic work plan comprising the three key elements below:

1. Ensuring people with lived experience have a voice throughout the Equality and Diversity Council and an influence in all its work.
 - The subgroup is not a “Lived Experience” subgroup of the EDC but a group looking at leveraging change on some of the most persistent issues of inequality in health.
 - Having people with Lived Experience involved in developing the NHS is one of the key areas where some national change is needed to reduce inequality in health services. Strong involvement of people with Lived Experience in the subgroup is prioritised.
2. Working to improve equity of access to services and improved outcomes for protected groups and people with lived experience of stark inequalities by 2017.
 - The group aims to embed a programme of evidence based work to tackle key system and population group challenges for Inclusion Health groups and those facing the starkest inequalities and to develop measures to ensure that the starkest inequalities are monitored and tackled across key national and programme areas.
3. Strengthen workforce and organisational capability for spotting and addressing Equality and Health Inequalities impacts across EDC member organisations.
 - Group members are focussed upon tackling some of the most serious inequalities in service access, experience and outcomes are amongst the membership and will lead work in disseminating better practice when carrying out impact assessments and leading the development of an E/HIA capability programme for NHS England staff, CCGs and key national partner agencies.

Actions taken to date

- The group has already met virtually to agree its draft terms of reference and work plan and to take forward the task of selecting the Lived Experience members on behalf of the EDC. Out of seven Lived Experience applicants, four have been selected for EDC membership. All applicants have been offered the opportunity to join an EDC sub group and support the work of the Council.

Next steps

The first full face-to-face meeting of the subgroup will take place during the afternoon of 28th July, following the EDC meeting in the morning.

Recommendation and action requested

The EDC to note the establishment of the Subgroup and the actions carried out to date.

Ruth Passman and Lucy Wilkinson
On behalf of the Inclusion Health Subgroup
July 2015