

**Health Scrutiny Committee
17 December 2020**

Health inequalities related to Covid-19

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To hear about work to better understand the health inequalities related to Covid-19 and what is happening locally to address those inequalities.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) review the local understanding of the links between health inequalities and Covid-19 and how that it being used to inform decision making on improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities; and
 - b) identify if any further scrutiny is required and if so, the focus and timescales.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Health inequalities mean that some groups in the population experience significantly worse health outcomes than others. Since the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic there have been reports that the virus has had a disproportionate effect on some population groups, including those that already face health inequalities e.g. some ethnic minority communities and people living in more deprived areas both in terms of health outcomes and access to services.
- 3.2 In June, Public Health England published a report of its review into what was known at the time about Covid-19 and ethnicity, including disparities in risks and outcomes. Since then a number of national reports have been published about health inequalities in relation to Covid-19 and citing evidence that there are a range of socioeconomic and geographical factors, such as population density, occupational exposure and pre-existing health conditions contributing to higher infection and mortality rates for some population groups.
- 3.3 In November, the Independent Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies published a report on Covid-19 and Health Inequality, stating that the most deprived neighbourhoods in England have a Covid-19 mortality rate more than twice that of the most affluent and people in the lowest paid occupations are twice as likely as those in higher occupational groups to die from Covid-19.

- 3.4 At its meeting in July, this Committee held an initial exploration of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Nottingham and heard from the Director of Public Health that Covid-19 has worsened pre-existing health inequalities and that risks and poorer outcomes were greater for Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups. She reported that work to understand the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 was being carried out.
- 3.5 In this context the Committee wanted to explore what is now known locally about the health inequalities associated that Covid-19, how that knowledge and evidence base is developing; and how that information is being used to inform work locally to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities.
- 3.6 Attached is a briefing paper prepared by colleagues within the Council's Public Health Team, with input from wider partners, about work to address inequalities across Nottingham's communities. Key partners will be attending the meeting to discuss this with the Committee.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Paper on 'Addressing inequalities across Nottingham's diverse communities during the Covid response' submitted by David Johns, Consultant in Public Health, Helen Johnston, Public Health Registrar and Bryony Lloyd, Public Health Registrar

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Public Health England (June 2020) 'Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups'

The Independent Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (November 2020) 'Covid-19 and Health Inequality'

The appendix includes details of published documents referred to in that paper.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

- 8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer

jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

0115 8764315