

across the city. This insight was helped to inform our decision making during the first phase of Covid and was later used to help us plan our future commissioning intentions. As a response to the challenges faced by the local healthcare system, some temporary changes to services had to be made. It is important for the CCG to understand what impact these changes have had on population of Sheffield.

- We undertook two pieces of involvement to understand the impact of these changes on our communities. A telephone survey of a representative sample of the Sheffield population was undertaken by SMSR and semi structured interviews by local community groups with residents involved Mencap, SADACCA, Together Women, Shipshape, Refugee Council, ZEST and the Chinese Community Centre
- A total of 1270 residents of Sheffield responded across the two methods. 1107 through the telephone survey and 163 through the community organisation-led activities.
- The impact of this work will be on our future commissioning intentions as we continue, with refreshed vigour, to reduce health inequalities in the city by listening to and responding to the needs of those most vulnerable. This will be at every level of the organisation in terms of our strategic planning and implementation of commissioning decisions, alongside our partner organisations.

Flu outreach

In September 2020 we embarked on a project to encourage additional uptake of the flu vaccine, given the increased risk that a flu / covid combination could pose and the disproportionate impact covid has had on minority ethnic communities. This involved asking BAME organisations, via the Public Health communities group, to let us know how they would tailor messages and methods to increase uptake in their community and how they would evaluate that work. Eleven organisations came forward and have been given £1k each to undertake a multi-methods approach to allay fears and encourage people to have their vaccine.

This work is currently underway and includes (socially distanced) conversations with people whilst food parcels are being delivered, educational films promoted via Facebook & Twitter, slots on community radio targeted at taxi drivers, messages via community WhatsApp and WeChat groups, all delivered in community languages and tailored appropriately, whilst utilising the national flu campaign messages.

Individual organisations will be asked to evaluate how effective their outreach work has been based on the evaluation criteria they set themselves and that data will be collected and collated at the start of 2021.

BAME Public Health group

In July 2020, public health colleagues and a VCF sector organisation called Faithstar, convened an initial meeting for staff from provider and commissioner organisations across healthcare to meet with and listen to people from minority ethnic communities. The CCG is engaged with the group. People described racism, structural inequalities, lived experience of discrimination and prejudice and the devastating impact of covid by people living across our city. There was a deep lack of trust by community members of statutory organisations and a perception that people were excluded from decision making in the city and not heard.

The group has met almost every week since July. Senior leaders such as Brian Hughes attended to share how they intend to play their part to bridge the gap and lead the city in a more inclusive way, that reduces health inequalities and ensures that past mistakes are not repeated.

The group reviewed progress in the last meeting of 2020 and comments from community leaders included “It’s been a visible learning experience – the authenticity and trust gap is closing through good leadership”, “This forum has meant that trust is being rebuilt – we face structural inequalities and racism on a daily basis but Sheffield is a great city and people’s hearts are in the right place and that is shown in this group” and “I can’t thank you enough. You can get something good out of a bad situation. Without covid we wouldn’t have all met and worked out how we can all work together. I just hope this work continues”

Equality Delivery System

Earlier in January, SPEEEC were asked to approve the CCG submission of the Equality Delivery System.

This reviewed a particular area of our work: the interpreter contract and specification through the lens of service users and involved interviewing and working alongside VCF sector colleagues who support people whose first language isn’t English.

Using the NHS England tool, the current provision has been judged as “developing” and an action plan for more suitable future provision is being overseen by the Interpreter Contract Group and Reducing Health Inequalities group within the CCG.

SPEEEC – annual assurance review and action plan and terms of reference review

Past members of the SPEEEC committee, alongside current members and those people who have attended to present over the last year were asked to contribute to a review of their experience. Some aspects of the committee were seen as positive and there were areas that required further thought and consideration as we move into 2021. An action plan has been developed alongside internal and external members and have contributed to the revised Terms of Reference.