

Brief - Healthwatch Leicester (HWLL) Opportunities Going Forwards:

(Additional supplied documents – “BAME-Connect” Briefing Document)

This Briefing is designed to follow up on the BAME-Connect project presenting the opportunity to develop a new partnership with local university De Montfort and to look at additional funding that can expand on BAME-Connect giving the opportunity to take it in a direction that HWLL would not be able to resource alone.

- 1) BAME-Connect is designed to establish novel, tailored means of communicating with the BAME communities around Leicestershire. The project should allow HWLL to more effectively act as enablers between health and social care services and disadvantaged communities. This should not be seen as limited to COVID-19 although it is likely that with the recent news of ongoing lockdown in Leicester that it may have a role to play there.
- 2) HWLL proposes that whilst BAME-Connect will effectively tailor new methods of communication which will allow it to serve as an example to other Healthwatches, to be truly effective this project should also provide resources to target communities to embed the project and create an integrated two-way engagement platform. It is therefore proposed that HWLL will apply for National Lottery Communities Fund funding to develop a complimentary project within Leicester’s communities to match BAME-Connect
 - a. This would be for less than £10k (which is a simpler applications process)
 - b. Last found around 6 months (exact costing to be developed with ECS)
 - c. Establish a team of around five individuals drawn from different communities around Leicester. This team will be provided with:
 - i. 1 day of salary / week to enable them to work with the HWLL team and be compensated, specifically to feedback on progress and help develop the effectiveness of the BAME-Connect project and communicate COVID-19 messaging
 - ii. Training in the outputs and methods of BAME-Connect which will be provided by HWLL
 - iii. Additional training, as appropriate, in skills which will help them to be more effective in their communities can be sought
 - iv. A small pot of resources, to be administered by HWLL for producing materials that it is felt will help improve communications.
- 3) HWLL proposes a strategic partnership with De Montfort University (DMU).
 - a. Meetings have already been held with the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, including their director, and also DMU’s psychology team. These were received very positively.
 - b. Further steps will include:
 - i. Further meetings at the start of July
 - ii. Establish a working group to meet regularly and progress the partnership
 - iii. Look at how HWLL can contribute towards courses developing at DMU including an MSc in Global Health Psychology. It is anticipated that this will include shaping those courses and contributing some material and lectures.
 - iv. HWLL will work with the Stephen Lawrence centre to look at larger more substantive research programmes which the partnership can develop with DMU contributing skills which are not present in HWLL e.g. government policy interventions, analysis of data and examining the history of institutional racism.