



Responding to the Needs of Black Communities

Executive Summary

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The Community Champions programme commenced initially with MHCLG funding (February 2021), then with COMF funding (October 2021) and built on the Covid response of collaborations of black organisations across the county that mobilised in May 2020 through emergency grants from the National Emergency Trust (through NCF) and the National Lottery recognising disproportionate impact of Covid on black communities. We also developed collaborations to deliver food parcels and meals through Defra funding.

Support Northamptonshire have now published key reports:

1. Disproportionate impact of Covid on black communities in May 2021
2. Defra Reports – North and West Northamptonshire June 2021
3. Community Champions (MHCLG) February 2021 – September 2021
4. Community Champions (COMF) October 2021 – April 2022

This work took an action research, co-production and collaboration approach and is one of the most extensive exercises in reaching black communities across Northamptonshire. This work clearly evidences health inequalities, barriers and lack of access to services, levels of need and provide clear evidence of ‘what works’ in supporting black communities.

We hope this work provides a key reference point for all agencies to understand what is needed and how to enable equal access, overcome disadvantage and tackle health and other inequalities faced by black communities.

Key recommendations.

1. To accept this extensive body of action research (May 2020 – April 2022) to understand inequalities and the needs of black communities across the county.
2. To understand how to reach black communities and involve them in designing support and services.
3. To use best practice from this evidence to develop specific services that black communities can access and are relevant to their needs.
4. To learn from this evidence to understand how to respond to other communities unserved by public services – i.e. when you improve services for black communities you can get it right for all communities.
5. To ensure that the new Integrated Care Services (ICS) transformation uses this body of evidence to understand ‘what works’ and engages with Northamptonshire Black Communities Together (NBCT) to co-produce services and support for black communities.

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