



**To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board
December 2024**

Date: 4th

Subject: Independent Annual Public Health Report 2024 – Migrant Health and Wellbeing in Coventry

1 Purpose of the Note

To inform the Health and Wellbeing board on The Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report – Migrant Health and Wellbeing in Coventry

2 Recommendations

For the Board to note the report and respond to the report recommendations.

3 Information/Background

The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory responsibility to write an independent annual report, and the Local Authority a statutory duty to publish it. The DPH for Coventry has chosen to focus their 2nd annual report on the health and wellbeing of migrants in Coventry.

Protecting our right to achieve good health and wellbeing is highlighted by the World Health Organisation as key part of creating safe, respectful communities/society. Working in partnership, we can and should support the integration of migrants to Coventry, enabling them to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding that will provide them with best opportunity to achieve their rights.

The report explores both longstanding and emerging protective and risk factors that influence migrants' ability to build new and healthy lives, their confidence in accessing appropriate support and the responsiveness of existing provision. The report recognises that demographic changes in the migrant population have sometimes been rapid (e.g. such as those driven by conflicts of war in Ukraine), have brought both positive and negative impacts on those who are forced to make the journey to the UK. It acknowledges Coventry's history and longstanding work welcoming migrant communities which offers a solid foundation to build on. By working collaboratively through an integrated system, we have the potential to secure these rights and better outcomes for every migrant community member.

The report has been informed by the needs and experiences of migrant communities in Coventry and is structured into chapters each addressing different aspects of Migrant Health and Wellbeing:

1. Why People Migrate
2. Refuge, Protection and Opportunity
3. Understanding Migrant Communities and Groups
4. Health Inequalities and Vulnerability
5. Migrant Community Health Patterns/Trends in Coventry

An overview of the report has been reviewed by the Coventry and Warwickshire ICB and will be shared with the ICB Quality, Safety and Experience Committee on 26th November. The report will be published in early December.

4 **Recommendations for Migrant Health and Well-being in Coventry**

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note and respond to the recommendations in the report. The recommendations are outlined below.

1. **Engage community partners in the next phase of the Coventry City Council "Our Coventry" integration programme** for newly arrived migrants to deepen activities that address social determinants of health through early, preventative action within communities.
2. **Improve cultural competence across local services** by the NHS and local authority working in collaboration to develop culturally sensitive policies and interventions (including information and engagement) that better respects diverse traditions and beliefs.
3. **Strengthen data collection and enhance the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** so that the full picture of migrant health needs is captured (including both quantitative and qualitative sources).
4. **Build research partnerships** between Coventry City Council's Migration team, the Voluntary Sector and the Coventry Health Determinants Research Collaboration to understand migrant health challenges and asset-based solutions.
5. **Develop the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust (CWPT) young people's mental health pilot** to incorporate approaches that are trauma-informed, age appropriate and relevant to young people newly arrived in Coventry.
6. **Enhance outreach and support including building on existing community champions networks**, deepening links with trusted leaders and regular mapping of community assets.
7. **Leverage innovative technologies** to enhance health literacy and service delivery for refugees and asylum seekers, starting with the NHS funded Virtual

Reality Project (hosted by George Elliot NHS Trust in partnership with Coventry University, and Coventry City Council).

- 8. Strengthen partnership working to deliver improvements in maternity care** including building on the specialist refugee and asylum seekers midwife to improve access, quality and cultural competency.
- 9. Strengthen partnership working to reduce infant mortality including delivery of joined up early years and parenting support involving the NHS,** voluntary sector and local authority.
- 10. Build on local tailored health protection campaigns to maximise:**
 - a. uptake of vaccination to align with UK immunisations schedule
 - b. Engagement in age or other appropriate screening
 - c. Awareness of infectious disease.
- 11. Build on local specialist support and advocacy for survivors of modern slavery** through targeted training for professionals in Coventry on exploitation indicators and rights to care.
- 12. Explore and expand opportunities for the co-production of local statutory sector strategies and frameworks** with migrant groups as part of fostering community ownership and trust in services.
- 13. Invest in robust translation and interpretation services** to ensure that all residents can effectively engage with health programmes (prevention, treatment and care). Measurements of appropriateness to include consistency of arrangements for migrants where English is not a first language and choice.
- 14. Schedule a series of asset based deeper dives** into sub-groups of migrants with the aim of learning from their experiences to close equalities gaps (e.g. young people, women, older people).
- 15. Build on the Wellbeing Monitor community engagement project** (focussed on Black African Communities) to establish sustainable models of building health literacy and service delivery that supports prevention, earlier diagnosis and treatment.

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