

## Engagement Assurance Committee Cover Sheet

**Item 4  
EnclosureD**

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) Community Engagement</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
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<b>Purpose of paper:</b>	<b>To provide the board with information on the LMNS community engagement project. The LMNS commissioned five community organisations to work with women and birthing people from underrepresented groups on the challenges they face(d) in accessing maternity and neonatal services.</b>	<b>Update / Information</b>		
		<b>Discussion</b>		
		<b>Decision</b>		
<b>Summary of main points:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the project</li> <li>How the outreach was conducted</li> <li>Findings and recommendations from the organisations</li> <li>Next steps for the LMNS</li> </ul>			
<b>Potential Conflicts of Interest</b>	Nil			
<b>Relevant to the following Boroughs</b>	<b>Bexley</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Bromley</b>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Greenwich</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Lambeth</b>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Lewisham</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Southwark</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Other Engagement</b>	Equality Impact	Supports strategic commitments on reducing inequalities across the integrated care system.		
	Financial Impact	None		
<b>Other Engagement</b>	Public Engagement	Yes – as outlined in the report		
	Other Committee Discussion/ Engagement	No		

## Recommendation:

National and local data highlight disparities in maternity outcomes, revealing that women and birthing people from underrepresented groups and those living in deprived areas often face greater challenges compared to their white counterparts. Recognising this, SEL LMNS embarked on a project to engage with local communities, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds, to gather insights into their experiences with maternity and neonatal services. Five community organisations were commissioned to support this work.

The overarching objective of this initiative was to collect feedback that could inform meaningful service improvements as part of the LMNS equality and equity action plan. Participants were from diverse backgrounds, including:

- Black, Asian, and ethnic minority groups
- LGBTQ+ community
- Migrant and asylum seekers
- Traveller and nomadic populations
- Neurodivergent individuals
- Those with disabilities

Through this inclusive approach, SEL LMNS aims to address systemic inequities and promote more inclusive and accessible maternal and neonatal care services.