

Engagement Assurance Committee Cover sheet

Title	Pre-Conception Engagement Project					
Meeting date	30 July 2025	Agenda item Number	4	Paper Enclosure Ref	D	
Author	Jacqui Kempen Associate Director of Midwifery and Neonates/Monica Franklin LMNS Project Manager for Public Health and Engagement					
Executive lead	Interim Chief Nurse Gwen Kennedy					
Paper is for:	Update/Information	X	Assurance	X		
Purpose of paper	To outline the engagement activities undertaken to inform the development of preconception health initiatives across south east London.					
Summary of main points	<p>The Pre-Conception Engagement explored how individuals across south east London understand and access pre-conception care (PCC). Through workshops, surveys, and informal conversations with over 130 participants-including young people, migrant communities, and fathers to be.</p> <p>The project uncovered widespread gaps in awareness, particularly around folic acid, lifestyle changes, and financial planning. Many participants did not engage with healthcare professionals before pregnancy, relying instead on informal sources like family or social media. Cultural beliefs, emotional complexity, and unclear terminology (e.g. confusion between “preconception” and “contraception”) further limited access.</p> <p>The project highlighted the need for inclusive, culturally sensitive communication and recommended embedding PCC into everyday healthcare interactions, such as contraception reviews and chronic disease management.</p> <p>A public health campaign launched in February 2025, in partnership with Tommy’s, reached over 871,000 people and distributed materials in 10 languages. The campaign also included targeted outreach to men’s groups and deprived postcodes, with nearly 2,000 people completing Tommy’s pre-conception tool.</p> <p>Recommendations include increasing visibility of PCC in public spaces, involving partners and fathers in education, and co-designing resources with communities. The findings are now being integrated into the Women’s and Girls’ Health Hub to ensure pre-conception becomes a core part of preventative health strategy in SEL.</p>					
Potential conflicts of Interest	None identified					
Sharing and confidentiality	For sharing					
Relevant to these boroughs	Bexley	x	Bromley	x	Lewisham	x
	Greenwich	x	Lambeth	x	Southwark	x
Equalities Impact	Initial engagement highlighted gaps in awareness and access among younger women, men, and ethnic minority groups.					



	Targeted outreach was conducted to improve representation and inform culturally sensitive service design.
Financial Impact	SEL LMNS received funding from the inequalities fund to support preconception health project. Budget allocation includes engagement activities, training, and pilot service development and public health campaign
Public Patient Engagement	Includes a focus on engagement with people and communities
Committee engagement	SEL LMNS Board
Recommendation	The committee are asked to note the paper and provide assurance on the engagement undertaken

