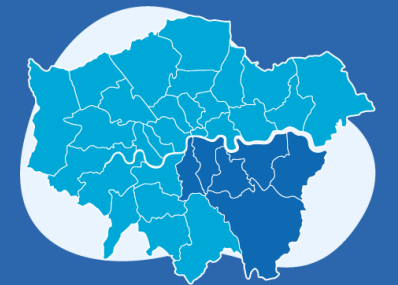


# SEL LMNS – Community Engagement Project

Engagement Assurance Committee

19 March 2024



# Background

<p>National findings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBBRACE 2024 – data from UK 2020-2022</li> <li>• Statistically significant increase in maternal death rate compared to 2017-2019 data (COVID deaths excluded)</li> <li>• Thrombosis and Thromboembolism was the leading cause of maternal death during or up to six weeks after the end of pregnancy, then COVID, then cardiac disease and mental health.</li> <li>• There remains an almost threefold difference in maternal mortality rates amongst women and birthing people from Black ethnicity compared to White women.</li> <li>• There remains an almost two-fold difference amongst women and birthing people from Asian ethnicity.</li> </ul>
<p>LMNS expectations</p>	<div data-bbox="580 696 1243 811" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Equity and equality Guidance for local maternity systems</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1304 696 2160 882" style="background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 20px;"> <p><b>Three year delivery plan for maternity and neonatal services</b> March 2023</p> </div>
<p>Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LMNS Inequalities workstream</li> <li>• LMNS Equality &amp; Equity action plan</li> <li>• Community engagement project – hearing from underrepresented women and birthing people</li> </ul>



"Supporting our member councils to be the best they can be for their communities"

**healthwatch**  
Lambeth



### PAID OPPORTUNITY!

Calling all recently migrated women/birthing people! If you're pregnant now or have a child under 1 years old, Healthwatch Greenwich want to hear from you.

We're looking for women/birthing people to join our exciting new project on maternity experiences! You'll have the chance to share your experiences, be part of an important project, and earn money while doing so.

Scan the QR code to apply or for more information!

**healthwatch**  
Greenwich



# Voluntary and Community Organisations

# Engagement and emerging themes

## Healthwatch Lambeth (Lambeth)

Worked in partnership with 5 voluntary and community organisations.

Feedback from 55 women and birthing people. Black and Asian ethnicities, refugee and migrants, migrant health workers, living in areas of high deprivation and those with a learning disability  
Focus group discussions, one-to-one interviews and written feedback

## Creating Ground (Greenwich and Lewisham)

Mum's Voices project

Weekly sessions for migrants to explore birth experience through creative arts

Surveys and one-to-one interviews, focus groups

Topics included – individual circumstances that affect day to day lives, barriers to accessing maternity care, how health services can build trust with communities, and how to reduce barriers

## Feedback – highlights

The importance of being kind, attentive and provision of responsive care  
Not to be ignored or dismissed  
Information, choice and control  
Better postnatal care and support  
Continuity of care  
Information and emotional needs support

## Feedback – highlights

Lack of support network  
Lack of knowledge about UK maternity services  
Immigration issues  
Language barriers  
Lack of consistency in staff  
Lack of consistency in treatment  
Lack of care/empathy  
Fear of payments and reporting to the home office  
Fear of disclosing mental health difficulties  
Racism and labelling  
Lack of postnatal support

# Engagement and emerging themes

## Healthwatch Greenwich (Greenwich, Lewisham, Bexley and Lambeth)

Peer research model to understand the experience of migrant and asylum-seeking women and birthing people in SEL  
Peer researcher interviews – 24 women and birthing people

East of England Local Government Association  
Open Dialogues Workshops with different community groups  
In collaboration with Black, Asian, ethnic minority groups and health professionals

(SEL Midwives, Gypsy traveler and nomadic communities, Refugees and asylum-seeking people, Muslim women, Neurodiversity, LGBTQ+ people)

## Feedback – highlights

Importance of quality of care  
Perception of maternity care – high expectations  
Access and information barriers  
Need for good postnatal care  
Need for support networks  
Need for cultural sensitivity

## Feedback – highlights

Information pack specifically for traveller, gypsy and nomadic communities  
Lack of contraception advice  
Difficulties of living in temporary accommodation, lack of facilities  
Lack of interpreter services/communication issues  
Lack of information about services and choices  
Grief around current conflicts and effect on families  
Cultural awareness is important – male healthcare professionals



# Next Steps

- Feedback event – 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- Review of themes and recommendations by the LMNS
- Share findings with stakeholders
- Work into LMNS Equality and equity plan which will be overseen by the LMNS inequalities workstream
- Explore future working with community organisations
- Further detail including links to final reports with detailed findings at [Working with local organisations to improve antenatal and maternity health | Let's Talk Health and Care South East London \(letstalkhealthandcareselondon.org\)](#)

