

METRO RACE AUDIT FINDINGS

HEALTHIER GREENWICH PARTNERSHIP POSITION STATEMENT

METRO has carried out an internal race equality audit which focuses on the experiences of staff, trustees and volunteers at the charity. This audit has revealed serious issues relating to race, negative behaviour towards staff, and limited knowledge of multi-cultural norms amongst staff within the organisation.

Healthier Greenwich Partnership (HGP) is committed to anti-racism. We are disappointed and concerned with the findings of the report. The experiences described in it don't meet our values and agreed ways of working. We have asked METRO GAVS to temporarily stand down from their role representing the voluntary sector within HGP and we have asked for assurance that METRO takes action to change its culture and implement all of the report's recommendations as a matter of urgency. We will monitor this closely through existing contractual arrangements and partners will consider further steps, including the potential withholding of funds, if METRO fail to deliver the actions against the agreed milestones.

We remain committed to working closely with METRO who deliver services to some of our most vulnerable and at-risk residents. We will look for reassurance that these services can continue to be delivered robustly. The last annual survey, for example, showed that service users report receiving friendly, understanding, and reliable support services from METRO.

We acknowledge the reflective approach taken by METRO and will work with them as they progress the work required to create a fully inclusive environment for all of their staff and volunteers. We expect to see tangible progress and will keep under review their ability to lead with trust and confidence.

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Chair, Healthier Greenwich
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Neil Kennett-Brown
Chief Operating Officer,
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22/3/23

ENDS