

Programme: BSc Health and Social Care

Module: Community Care and Development

Module code: BMHP6022

Lecturer: Dr Laila Surani

Assignment Title: Assessment Component 1 Viva Voce

Student's Name: George Omyeka

Students Number: 1919241

BLACK AND AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

- **Introduction:** This project will be discussing the Black and African community in the London borough of Hackney. It will discuss the location, diversity, and demography. Prevalent health issues and risks among its Black and African community. It will also highlight mental health among the various prevalent health issues.
- **What is community development:** It empowers members of a community and creates greater bonding among them. Community members receive support from agencies to select and take joint action on common issues which are deemed to be important (AIFS, 2023).

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Increased skills and knowledge
- Empowerment
- Enhances social inclusion
- Improved health.

POPULATION OF HACKNEY

- According to the Office of National Statistics records for the 2021 census figures are 259,956 and cover an area of 19 square kilometers.
- The demographics of the borough: The borough has a predominantly white population of about 53% and other minority groups make up the remaining 47%. The diverse people are made up of people from The Caribbean, Turkish, Jewish, Vietnamese, Africans, Eastern Europeans, and recently Asians (Hackney Council, 2022).
- Languages spoken: Aside from the English language which is spoken by about 80.1% of the people, there are about 89 other languages spoken in Hackney.
- Religion: The Christian population makes up 40%, 14% are Muslims, 6% are Jewish and 28% belong to no particular religious group (Hackney Council, 2022).
- It has a median average age of about 32.8, out of which 82% are above the age of 18
- The health and social care needs and policies of the borough could impact and aid their growth.

PREVALENT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ISSUES

There are many health challenges facing the Black and African community in Hackney, which include the following:

- Mental health
- Obesity
- Sexual health
- HIV
- There is also the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Drug Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- The causes of these problems are many and complex.

POLICIES

Hackney Joint & Wellbeing Strategy 2022/2026

Aim -

1. Reduction of health inequalities and improve health in Hackney.
2. Improving mental health and preventing mental ill-health
3. Increasing social connection
4. Supporting greater financial security and reducing poverty (Hackney.Gov.UK, 2022)
5. Mental Health Act (1983)
6. Mental Capacity Act (2005)
7. Equality Act (2010)

CHOSEN ISSUE: MENTAL HEALTH

- Statistics indicate that people from Black, African, and Caribbean background have a higher tendency to mental illness.
- Black women are most likely to experience mental health issues like depression and anxiety.
- It also shows that black men are ten times more than whites to suffer from mental health issues.
- More blacks are more likely to be detained under the Mental Health Act. (IRR, 2022)

FACTORS THAT AFFECT MENTAL HEALTH

These include the following:

- Language barrier: African people face language barriers and isolation is a serious issue due to the loss of community.
- Poverty/debt
- Domestic abuse
- Depression
- Discrimination
- Unemployment
- Alcohol and drugs
- Bereavement
- Homelessness
- Severe Stress
- Being a long-term carer

EXISTING MEANS OF COMMUNICA TION

- Telephone
- Texts
- Flyers
- Newspapers
- Brochures
- Internet
- Social media tools (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, WhatsApp)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Creating a conducive environment for people in the borough
- Creating more jobs
- Sensitisation and awareness programmes should be put in place
- Encouraging equality and diversity in all spheres of the borough

REFERENCES

- Forgeard, V. (2022) *Why is community development important in nation building*, brilliantio. Available at: <https://brilliantio.com/why-is-community-development-important-in-nation-building/> (Accessed: March 31, 2023).
- Hackney Council (2022) *Knowing our communities, Knowing our communities | Hackney Council*. Available at: <https://hackney.gov.uk/knowning-our-communities> (Accessed: March 27, 2023).
 - Hackney.Gov.UK (2022) *Hackney Joint Health & Wellbeing strategy - 2022/26*, Hackney.Gov.UK. Available at: https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/adults-health-integration/health-and-wellbeing-strategy/user_uploads/hds14626-health-and-wellbeing-executive-summary-v3.pdf (Accessed: March 28, 2023).
 - IRR (2022) *Health and Mental Health Statistics*, Institute of Race Relations. Available at: <https://irr.org.uk/research/statistics/health/> (Accessed: March 30, 2023).
 - NHS (2022) *Mental Health Act, NHS choices*. NHS. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/social-care-and-your-rights/mental-health-and-the-law/mental-health-act/> (Accessed: March 31, 2023).
 - ONS (2023) *How life has changed in Hackney: Census 2021*. Office of National Statistics. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E09000012/> (Accessed: March 30, 2023).
 - SCIE (2020) *Equality act 2010 - overview for social care*, Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). Available at: <https://www.scie.org.uk/key-social-care-legislation/equality-act#:~:text=The%20Equality%20Act%20protects%20those,disability> (Accessed: March 31, 2023).