**WM Migration Network Health Thematic Meeting**

**23rd March 2023 (10:30 – 11:30)**

**Chair: Andy Hoole**

1. **Introductions**

AH welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the meeting as providing a forum for those either working with migrants, or wishing to support the sector to discuss strategic issues affecting integration and settlement. It is intended to provide advocacy around key issues, collaborative solutions and agree priority areas of work for the sector.

A wide membership is encouraged so that the group, and wider network can represent the migration sector in discussions with statutory partners and the wider VCS.

Attendees introduced themselves and gave brief information around their work to the group.

1. **Background to the Network and Previous Activity**

AH gave an update on the discussions at the previous meeting . AH also noted that he is currently involved with the Integrated Care Pathway in Birmingham and Solihull as the migration lead for the voluntary sector and also linked with the Black Country Health and Care Partnership Alliance which may provide an avenue to support outcomes from this meeting.

1. **Sector Priorities**

Discussions at the previous meeting highlighted a number of areas where the group could develop responses

* + Maternity Services
  + Mental Health Provision and Support
  + Support for those in hotels and temporary accommodation

AH emphasised that discussions and direction for the group were to be influenced by discussions with other priorities to be developed if needed.

1. **BLACHIR Report**

MB provided a presentation on the implementation of the findings from the report including current priorities where there were a number of crossovers with issues discussed in the group. These included adverse childhood experiences, access to services, transition to education and awareness campaigns. There is a focus around cultural competency including co-production of responses. The Implementation Board responsible for delivery is co-chaired by Justin Varney(Head of BCC Public Health) which demonstrate that the credibility of the process has been recognised.

As part of the delivery, engagement with this network will help to link with priority groups.

HT agreed that childhood issues are an important area of work with early intervention key as part of the migrant journey once individuals have arrived in the UK. The training of health professionals to provide appropriate support is key. MB thought that this issue could be raised at the next implementation board meeting.

MH then updated on contact she had recently made with St. Martins Counselling service who are keen to develop outreach and support to migrant communities. It was agreed to invite them to the next meeting to progress this.

AH also raised the recent ICS VCSFE Leadership Alliance meeting that he attended. There are avenues to develop links with the new Mental Health Consortium in the region as well as a potential funding avenue through the Fairer Futures Fund. HT highlighted that the initial date for bids was within the next two weeks so may not be feasible for current work. AH to clarify.

**ACTION – AH to link with Mental Health Consortium and BVSC around Fairer Futures Fund**

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

. Date was set for **Tuesday 4th May** at **10:30am**.