



PRESS RELEASE

The Caribbean & African Targeted Health Improvement Programme (CATHIP)

As a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic six Caribbean and African led organisations from; Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham and North and South London have come together in a two-year partnership funded by the National Lottery, to drive forward a unique collective approach in increasing health literacy, with the objective of raising awareness of prevalent conditions and improving health outcomes in Caribbean and African communities across England.

The Caribbean & African Targeted Health Improvement Programme (CATHIP) will bring together black doctors, consultants, nurses and other clinicians from across the country, alongside leaders from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector, in a series of dynamic online “Health Hour” presentations, via Zoom, live streamed to YouTube and Facebook at 11am every Saturday morning (www.cahn.org.uk/cathip).

The interactive Health Hour will impart, practical knowledge, self-management and preventative measures on key health issues that impact black communities such as Respiratory conditions, Mental and Emotional Health, Reproductive and Sexual Health, Blood, Blood born Immunological Conditions, Cardiovascular Diseases and Cancer.

At the end of each Health Hour a Q&A session will take place along with one-to-one opportunities to speak with the Doctor/Consultant or other clinicians.

Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) has reached millions of people since May 2020 with online health hour initiatives including engagement on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Chief Officer, (CAHN) who spearheads this new programme said: “We have witnessed first-hand throughout 2020 and 2021 the impact the information provided via our online Health Hour can have in the lives of our participants.

“Our vision is to end health disparities for Caribbean & African communities in a generation. This programme assists us broaden our reach; hence we have brought partners together who share our vision to achieve this. We are grateful to the National Lottery for helping us scaleup our dream.”

Dr Faye Bruce, Chair of CAHN added: “We are delighted to have received National Lottery funding to work in partnership to deliver this health and wellbeing programme. CAHN has been educating and enabling our Black communities to self-care and self-manage since inception, this wider action is incredibly important to shift poor health outcomes across all our Black communities. We have a real ambition to address the disparities we know exist and this targeted and much needed initiative will go a long way to effect the positive change we need to see.”

As the Medical Lead for CAHN and one of the clinicians who hosts the Health Hour sessions, Dr Ngozi Edi-Osagie, Consultant Neonatologist and CATHIP host is delighted that this health information initiative can be put on a more sustainable footing.

“I look forward to continuing to make an impact on health engagement and ultimately health outcomes in the black community. The funding will enable us to properly evaluate the impact we are having,” said Dr Ngozi Edi-Osagie

Dr Vanessa Apea, Consultant in Sexual Health and Co-chair of CATHIP believes this funding affords the CATHIP initiative to catalyse, build on, and expand each organisation’s individual work to collectively provide the information and support that African and Caribbean communities truly require. ‘This initiative was designed in response to a clear need within African and Caribbean communities across the UK. We are really excited and proud for the collaboration between all partners who are dedicated to achieving health equity for all.’

The partnership is made up of trusted Black-led organisations: Caribbean African Health Network, (based in Greater Manchester but working at national level), Black Health Initiative, (Yorkshire and Humber), The Royal Assembly Redeemed Christian Church of God (Sheffield), RAFFA International Development Agency (based in Birmingham but works at national level), Croydon BME Forum (South London) and Enfield Caribbean Association (North London). Below are quotes from CATHIP partners:

“I am delighted that we are part of this very important work. We fully support this initiative which will impact positively on the health and life chances of black communities in the UK.”

Oveta McInnis, Chair, Enfield Caribbean Association

“We cannot ignore the stark reality of the devastating effects that health inequality and health disparity continue to have on African and Caribbean Communities in the UK. It is incumbent upon us to reverse this narrative by the provision of factual information, support and advice, across these communities. We believe that the funding provided by the National Lottery will enable us to collaboratively provide the much-needed education, increased knowledge, awareness and preventative

strategies that will reduce inequality, increase life expectancy and preserve future generations.”

Angela Clarke, Chief Executive, RAFFA International Development Agency

“The work we are doing as a partnership to bring awareness and provide better health for our communities is something that I hope all our Caribbean and African community members would latch on to. It’s an amazing programme that is seeking to provide information for better health outcomes for us all.”

Pastor Samuel Okerenta Royal Assembly Church of God (RCCG)

“I am really happy to be working with the Caribbean and African Health Network, through the CATHIP partnership. It’s a perfect brand-new partnership for Croydon BME Forum because it brings organisations across the UK together. This will enhance our current projects and continue the amazing work we are doing for the BAME community in Croydon. We look forward to welcoming all the organisations on the new Caribbean and African Health Improvement Programme partnership.”

Andrew Brown, CEO of Croydon BME Forum

“To be part of this innovative national partnership is excellent. It provides a united voice working to narrow the health inequities which we are all aware of. The Black Health Initiative are pleased to be partners bringing our expertise and joining with like-minded organisations/charities which will impact positively on the health and wellbeing for those often with the wider health disparities.”

Heather Nelson – Chief Executive Officer Black Health Initiative (BHI)

More and more people have had private one-to-one consultations with their doctors and clinicians over the phone or by zoom following the Health Hour sessions. The ongoing digitalisation of services through the pandemic has enabled us to see things in a new light; more and more individuals can be made reachable but need support to participate fully and benefit from the expertise share. We are fully aware of the challenges of digital exclusion and working on innovative models to make health information accessible.

If you’re interested in having your community members of Caribbean & African decent benefit from our programme or believe you can contribute in any way, please feel free to be in touch.

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Background of Partners

Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN)

CAHN is a Black-led organisation set up to address the wider social determinants to eradicate health disparities for Caribbean & African people in the United Kingdom. We work with the Black community and cross-sector organisations to build community resilience, relationships, and a social movement to improve health outcomes for Black people.

Website: www.cahn.org.uk www.cahn.org.uk

Black Health Initiative (BHI)

BHI is a community engagement organisation working towards equality of access to Health and Social Care, BHI understands the importance of effective community engagement which affords minority communities opportunities to engage with service providers and influence services, policies and procedures with the emphasis of deliberate inclusion for all.

Website: www.blackhealthinitiative.org

The Royal Assembly Redeemed Christian Church of God

The Royal Assembly of the Redeemed Christian Church of God is committed to making positive impact in our immediate community, even to the broader society. To this end, we have different Community-based programs and outreach. These services are open to general public, regardless of race, belief

Website: www.theroyal-assembly.org

RAFFA International Development Agency

Serving communities near and far, providing help at the point of need across communities in the UK and abroad. We have an army of well-trained volunteers while serving local communities with specialist help given to Caribbean and African communities.

Website: www.raffa-ida.org.uk

Croydon BME Forum

Croydon BME (black & minority ethnic) Forum is the umbrella organisation for Croydon's Black and Minority Ethnic voluntary and community sector, engaging people, building capacity, and promoting equality and cohesion.

Website: www.cbmeforum.org

Enfield Caribbean Association

Enfield Caribbean Association are a small charity with big ideas, based in the London Borough of Enfield. We provide services and social events for the local community, in particular those of Caribbean descent.

Website: www.enfieldcaribbeanassoc.org.uk

Programme Notes

While CAHN is lead organisation having developed the concept, CATHIP is co-owned by all partners. Partners have agreed regular meetings to monitor progress, develop and improve the programme during the two-year life cycle. The Programme Steering Group is attended by Chairs, Trustees and CEOs, while the Programme Implementation and Delivery Group meets more frequently to review operational issues.

Doctors, nurses and other clinicians from Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, London and Greater Manchester associated to partner organisations will participate as presenters. Support will be provided in each locality where presenters are unable to assist with one-to-one sessions beyond the Health Hour presentations.

All partners have community development workers in each locality who will drive engagement and promote the weekly Health Hour sessions. They are supported by a Programme Manager, Communications Manager, and Programme Officer ensuring that resources and learning are shared across the partnership.

For all further information contact:

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