



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) and Manchester City Council Collaborate on a New Initiative: Victims' Voice

The Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) and Manchester City Council are working together to launch a new initiative called Victims' Voice. This initiative will work towards improving Manchester City Council's Domestic Abuse services by identifying gaps within the current service provision for the benefit of Manchester's residents who are or have been victims of Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault.

The Victims' Voice project will provide a safe space for victims and seek to understand the current Domestic Abuse (DA) service provision through the gathering of experiences and co-designing what good looks like. This initiative will be shaped by service users and wider engagement from diverse backgrounds, focus group discussions with survivors and monthly forum meetings. The contributions from survivors will feed into various partnership boards and steering groups including the DA Partnership Board and the VAWG Steering Group.

A Victims Panel will be set up with survivors and people with lived experience which will assess the current provision, explore and identify key levers of change that will make the City of Manchester a place where survivors can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Victims' Voice launches on 14th of February 2023. The launch event will feature keynote speakers, story-telling: survivors' experience and much more.

The UK Government's definition of domestic abuse encompasses any incident or recurring incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour or violence between those aged 16 or over who are or have been, intimate partners or family members. Abuse can include, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional. (Domestic Abuse Act, 2021).

Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Chief Officer of the Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) said: **"We are pleased to collaborate with Manchester City Council on this critical issue because we strongly believe that all survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse should be able to access the appropriate help and support that they need regardless of their backgrounds. Providing a safe forum for diverse voices and engaging directly with victims, organisations and stakeholders across different communities will help to improve the City's offer for every victim in Manchester."**

Karina Carter, Commissioning Manager of Manchester City Council added: **"Manchester City Council is excited to be partnering with CAHN in**

demonstrating its commitment to providing DA services that meet the needs of everyone regardless of their socio-economic status or ethnic background. Involving survivors in the discourse is instrumental in understanding what needs to change. We are hopeful that this project will help to create inclusive and user-friendly services for the benefit of all service users.”

To learn more about this initiative and CAHN's DVSA services, please click below:

[Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence Support – CAHN](#)

To register for the Victims' Voice launch Event please click below:

<https://portal.cahn.org.uk/victimsvoice>.

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For further information or collaboration opportunities please contact:

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CAHN Social Media Handles

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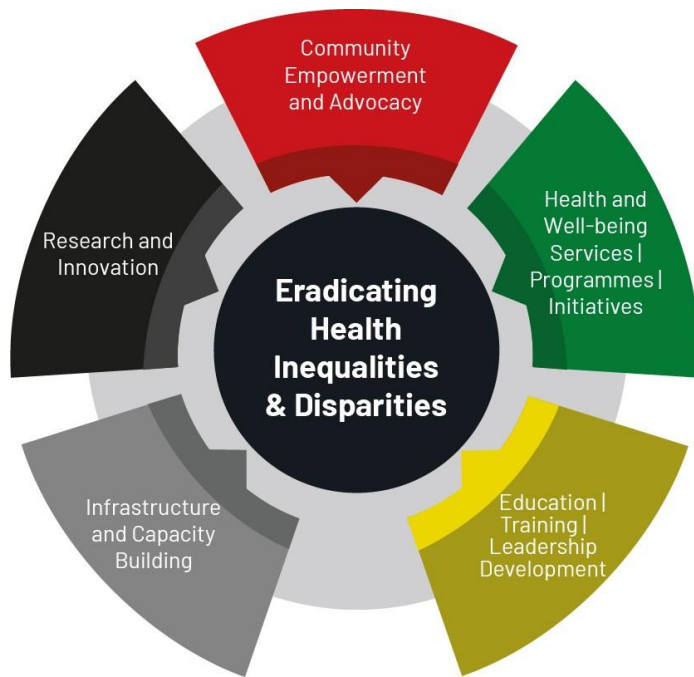
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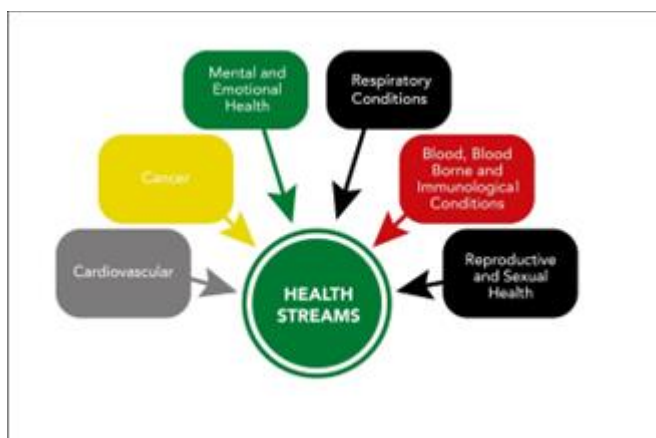


CAHN is a Black-led organisation set up to address health inequalities and the wider social determinants for people of Caribbean & African descent within the United Kingdom. We work with the Black community and cross-sector organisations to build community resilience, relationships, and a social movement to reduce health inequalities.

CAHN's **vision** is to end health inequalities and the wider disparities for Caribbean and African people in a generation.

Our **mission** is to ensure that the strategic and operational actions of service providers across health and cross sector agencies and commissioners, lead to racial and social justice for Black people.

CAHN's Health Priorities



The evidence base identifies six key areas of work that we need to work with our community and stakeholders to address. Within all of these health prevention and intervention programmes there is a requirement to work with our community to ensure that the action taken is tailored to meet our distinct needs.

CAHN's health programmes take into account intersectionality within the protected characteristics to deliver impact across generational groups. A lot of our work is undertaken in partnership with Trusts, commissioning bodies, Local Authorities, faith communities, voluntary, and private sector organisations and others including universities. Our work seeks to enable a better experience and outcome for people of Caribbean or African descent nationally.

For further information visit www.cahn.org.uk