



Supported through



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CAHN announces launch of Homes for Health in partnership with People's Health Trust**

The Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN) is pleased to announce the roll-out of Homes for Health in Manchester, in collaboration with People's Health Trust. People's Health Trust is an independent charity operating in England, Scotland and Wales with a commitment to health equity.

Funded by the People's Health Trust using money raised through Health Lottery North West, Homes for Health is a collaboration between the Trust and experts from housing, community, and racial justice charities, delivering projects that respond to the growing problem of unfit private and social rented homes and their effects on tenants' physical and mental health. At the centre of the work are marginalised people whose intersecting identities make them more likely to experience poor mental and physical health, caused by their sub-standard homes and insecure tenancies.

The shocking case of Awaab Ishak, the two-year-old who died in 2020 after succumbing to the long-term impact of mould in his family's Rochdale home, has highlighted just how damaging the consequences of poor housing and lingering inaction from landlords can be.

The Chief Executive of CAHN, Charles Kwaku-Odoi DL, explains: "CAHN was set up to address health inequalities and the wider social determinants which disadvantage Black Caribbean and African people. Housing remains one of the most dire and adverse life-impacting issue highlighted by our community members as the root cause of serious health concerns plaguing them today."

The Manchester iteration of Homes for Health is targeting private tenants of Black Caribbean and African origin residing in the Gorton area of East Manchester, with a view to amplifying their voices and identifying how best to address issues of inadequate housing.

CAHN's Chief Executive adds: "Funding from People's Health Trust means that CAHN can work with private renters and collaborate with stakeholders to enable improvements in the quality and standards of homes through collective action. This cross-sector approach will benefit people with intersecting identities and also, families who have struggled to advocate for themselves. We encourage private renters in Gorton to engage with us so that their voices are heard as we advocate for structural changes and racial justice in a way that improves their overall health and wellbeing"

CAHN is keen to hear not only from Gorton residents who speak fluent English, but also French and Portuguese speakers, who can be assisted by interpreters if needed.

John Hume, Chief Executive for People's Health Trust says: "The conditions many people are living in are utterly appalling, with widespread damp, mould and other serious hazards which harm the health of millions of tenants. Our investment in Homes for Health seeks to demonstrate how local communities can work with housing and health partners to create positive change, improving living conditions and, ultimately, their health and wellbeing. We are pleased to be collaborating with CAHN on their important work in Gorton."

Following the launch event of Homes for Health in early March, the collaboration is now in full effect, with pivotal conversations about tenants' rights, housing standards and much more being realised.

Recruitment of tenants to join the forum group is ongoing. All those of Black Caribbean and African heritage in Gorton who are interested in participating are invited to contact CAHN by emailing: [advocacy@cahn.org.uk](mailto:advocacy@cahn.org.uk) or calling **07919 095262**.

Homes for Health is expected to run until the spring of 2025. The collaboration aims primarily to augment tenant voice, empower residents from diverse backgrounds to elicit more proactive enforcement of the necessary housing standards from their landlords, and thus, increase the number of residents whose health improves as a direct result of the betterment of their housing conditions.

The housing conditions on which the project will place a special focus are: the quality and timeliness of repairs requested by tenants; the implementation of standards which make accommodation habitable; energy efficiency (including poor insulation); and tenancy insecurity. Through Homes for Health, CAHN intends to facilitate conversations with property managers, private landlords, statutory organisations and key civic leaders.

The Chair of CAHN, Dr. Faye Ruddock DL, states: "As a network with a goal to reduce health inequities, our hope is that through Homes for Health, we will engage members of the Black community in Gorton to take collective action to articulate their rights as tenants and therefore improve housing conditions where it is required."

**-ENDS-**

For further information or collaboration opportunities, please contact: [homes4health@cahn.org.uk](mailto:homes4health@cahn.org.uk) or Natacha Pires (Marketing & Media Manager) on 07493849910.

### **About CAHN**

CAHN is a Black-led organisation set up to address health inequalities affecting people of Caribbean and African descent in the UK. Working with community groups, faith networks and cross-sector organisations, CAHN leads on strategic engagement to ensure that the voices and experiences of Black people are placed at the heart of public policy and practice.

CAHN's **vision** is to eradicate health inequalities within a generation by building community resilience and a social movement.

Our **mission** is to ensure that 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 Social Handles**

Website: [www.cahn.org.uk](http://www.cahn.org.uk)

X: [@cahn\\_uk](https://twitter.com/cahn_uk)

Instagram: [@cahn\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/cahn_uk)

Facebook: [@cahnuk](https://www.facebook.com/cahnuk)

LinkedIn: [@Caribbean and African Health Network \(CAHN\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/caribbean-and-african-health-network)

YouTube: [@Caribbean and African Health Network](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

TikTok: [@cahn\\_uk](https://www.tiktok.com/@cahn_uk)

Reddit: [@cahn\\_uk](https://www.reddit.com/user/cahn_uk)

## **About People's Health Trust**

The People's Health Trust is an independent charity investing in local communities to help create a society without health inequalities through funding, support and using evidence and learning to influence change. It works closely with six Community Interest Companies raising money through The Health Lottery.

## **People's Health Trust Media Platforms**

Website: [www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk](http://www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/peopleshealthtrust](https://www.facebook.com/peopleshealthtrust)

X: [www.twitter.com/Peoples\\_health](https://www.twitter.com/Peoples_health) @Peoples\_health

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/peopleshealthtrust](https://www.instagram.com/peopleshealthtrust)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/PeoplesHealthTrust](https://www.youtube.com/user/PeoplesHealthTrust)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/people's-health-trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/people's-health-trust)