

SHA POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. RACE, RACISM AND HEALTH – A SCOPING PAPER.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Central Council endorsed a process of developing policy on Race, Racism and Health. A small group of people with expertise and relevant experience met to discuss the scope of this policy. This paper summarises that discussion, requesting that Central Council endorse a process of developing a full policy document.

THE GROUP

The group consists of Nazroo, BF (Chair), Trelvelion, Gardiner, Masters, David Sallah, Hodson, Mayer, Jewell in the background.

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE POLICY

There was unanimity that policy should be broad. For instance, that we should include a wide spectrum of ethnic minorities. However, we would not include all the protected characteristics, although they may become relevant during aspects of policy development.

DEFINITIONS

The term BAME will not be used. It serves mainly to confuse, at the very least conflating many communities and cultures.

We shall spend time exploring the nature of race, with an acceptance that it is a social construct, not a biological entity.

RACISM AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTH

There are clear definitions of racism and there is a wealth of research on the impact on health. We intend to cover that in detail.

THE INTERSECTION OF RACE AND THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

This has been clearly exposed through Covid. It can be difficult to tease out cause and effect, but we shall draw on the best research to understand this key area and draw recommendations for action. We will consider events across the life course and the accumulation of disadvantage and how this potentially transmits across generations.

SPECIAL FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health and illness is highly culturally determined. The high rates, particularly for black men, of severe mental illness, enforced admission to hospital and routing through the justice system requires particular consideration.

LINKING WITH OTHER GROUPS/OTHER DATA

This is a crowded space. There are many other groups thinking about these ideas. We want to link with those most relevant and draw on their ideas and expertise, acknowledging their provenance.

DEVELOPING RELEVANT POLICY AND ACTION

This will need to draw on an expanding set of existing recommendations and will require national and local measures. By applying socialist principles, we hope to develop new, relevant recommendations.

CONCLUSION

Central Council is requested to note the proposals of the Policy Group and offer constructive comments on its intended work.

**Race, Racism and Health group
November 2020**