

Respect and Inclusion: age friendly domain –summary and key priorities for Boroughs

As London is one of the most diverse cities in the world, this diversity also applies to its senior population. Currently the impact of COVID has highlighted the inequalities facing equality groups all of which are exacerbated by age, in particular for BAME seniors, who are more likely to be suffering health conditions, more likely to be in low paid jobs and live in areas of multiple deprivation and face poverty. The disproportionate levels of COVID hospitalisations and deaths in these communities must be addressed

Other equalities groups where intersectionality impacts includes gender, where older women are more likely to be receiving lower pensions, due both to caring responsibilities reducing the numbers of years of NI payments and the prevalence of women in low paid jobs.

Older people are also more likely to have disabilities and health conditions so that the number of people shielding and those with mobility problems in this twin equality group is also far higher than the national average.

Other inequalities such as facing seniors from the LGBTQ+ communities particularly in social care homes and also the those from minority faith groups is also apparent

Thus priorities for this domain that can be addressed by boroughs include

- Research into the incidence of the health, economic and other problems facing BAME seniors relating to covid hospitalisations and deaths especially for those in health and care sectors and on the front line and the publication of proposals to address these issues and give precedence to BAME seniors in receiving tests, treatment and vaccinations.
- Research linking poverty, ill health, unemployment and poor housing to be conducted at borough level and pressure put on the GLA and LRB to carry out similar exercises
- Priority given through the allocation of discretionary grants to people suffering from COVID and those needing to self isolate to BAME seniors and other groups facing multiple exclusion and deprivation
- Council leaders and chief executives to appoint a senior official to be **Head of an Age Friendly task force** with powers, resources and structures to ensure that all key strategies include relevant age friendly policies and practice and to oversee the implementation of the Age Friendly borough plan and to carry out equality impact assessments on behalf of all seniors and in particular those facing intersectional inequality including all the equality groups, focusing on those who are unemployed/ workless, those in poverty and living in deprived wards. This could include joint partnerships and there could be convened regular **Borough older people's 'Assembly' meetings which would invite representatives from all the communities making up the seniors in your borough.** could be set up with the purpose of obtaining feedback from elected officials and officers about Age Friendly progress and future planned activities.