

INPUTS

WS1 - CAPACITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Workforce development – training needs analysis; training & upskilling SMBC staff

Data science infrastructure – data sharing agreements, linked datasets & resources for evaluation & research

Research governance and ethics - support from UoB to develop governance & ethical review processes

WS2 – CULTURE & EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICE

Mapping the current culture – systematic review & mixed methods evaluation

Translating evidence to practice – expand existing infrastructure; develop systems for accessing evidence across SMBC

Needs assessment and evaluation – support & resources for evaluation & decision making; embed evaluation at early stage

Decision-making processes – embed evidence into reports to Council meetings & Boards; Health Equity Audit

WS3 - SYSTEMS & PARTNERSHIPS

Academic partnerships – co-located appointments, formal collaborations, shared learning, develop Research Strategy

Wider system partnerships – Develop joint working processes & protocols; embed asset-based approach via VCS & community forums

Information sharing and governance - explore barriers; develop systems across SMBC & partners

WS4 - COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Public engagement - expand existing PPI structures/pathways to enable community-driven wider determinants research agenda; training

Research priorities and partnerships – use Residents Survey for identifying research priorities; develop Community Research Champions cohort

Communication and dissemination – Sandwell Trends, communications plan, networking and learning events

OUTPUTS (KPIs)

- Training delivered; staff engaged
- Software installed; users trained/registered
- Diversity monitoring data completeness
- Research studies supported
- Ethics applications reviewed

- Training delivered & officers/Councillors engaged
- Senior leaders engaged with culture change training
- Literature/rapid reviews & Health Equity Audits conducted
- Evaluations of services/initiatives

- MPH projects based in Sandwell
- SMBC evaluations with UoB/other HEIs
- Attendance at intelligence network meetings
- Information sharing agreements updated/reviewed

- Training delivered; people engaged
- Community Research Champions trained; people engaged
- Public representation in all HDRC governance structures
- Reports/papers published
- HDRC communications & events
- Case studies from VCS

OUTCOMES

O1: Research and development capacity and resources

- Training quality and effectiveness
- Increased capacity for research & development (staff time and skills)
- Use of linked datasets for research
- Increased research activity in line with good research practice principles

O2: Transformed research culture

- Services/initiatives informed by rapid review and Health Equity Audit
- Services/initiatives informed by needs assessment/evaluation
- Attitudes of senior leaders/members towards research & evidence-informed decision making
- Cabinet decisions with evidence of HDRC activity

O3: Systems & partnerships:

- Partner and stakeholder perceptions of HDRC effectiveness
- Successful research bids with partners
- Teams/ departments accessing linked datasets & shared resources

O4: Community-led research culture

- Diverse involvement in research
- Increased understanding of research/evidence-based decision making in communities
- Increased and more diverse community involvement in decisions
- Identified research priorities & resulting research activity - internal research/ external funding applications
- Engagement with HDRC communications

IMPACTS Medium term

Evidence-informed decision-making and investment to improve the wider determinants of health

Robust evaluation of SMBC programmes, projects and services ensuring quality, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness

Increased research activity in collaboration with partner organisations and local residents

Dissemination of research outputs to influence wider practice

Improved quality of SMBC services and more efficient investment

IMPACTS - Long term

Improved health outcomes and reduced health inequalities through:



High aspirations and equality of opportunity



Living healthy lives for longer, supporting most vulnerable



Skilled workforce equipped to respond to changing economy



Best start in life and high quality education



Community cohesion, equality and safety



Affordable and well-connected transport system



Better quality housing in attractive neighbourhoods, good transport links



Towns & neighbourhoods promote community life, leisure and entertainment



Growing local economy that is attractive to future industries



National reputation for working in partnership to improve people's lives

Aligns to Vision 2030: thriving, resilient & optimistic community

Internal context: Existing culture and infrastructure to support evidence-informed decision making; limited capacity and resource for research activity - Established links with the University of Birmingham (UoB), Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Sandwell Consortium & other key partners

External context: High need, superdiversity and strong community assets – shared identities and networks across the Black Country and the West Midlands