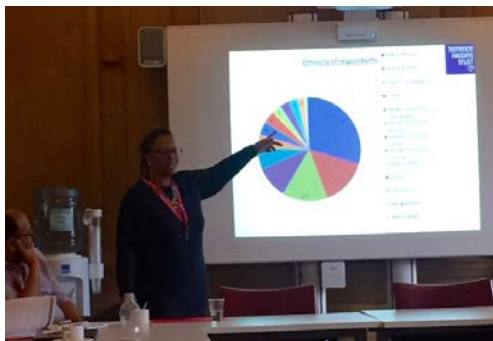


BAME Sexual Health in Bristol

What is Healthwatch?

Healthwatch is here to *demonstrably influence commissioning, service provision or strategic decision making...* and this impact report outlines how we will achieve this following a meeting with the launch of Black Asian and Minority Ethnic BAME Sexual Health in Bristol.



We were delighted to be invited to the launch of the BAME Sexual Health in Bristol survey, organised by Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) on 28 March 2018. THT wanted to research issues and thoughts surrounding sexual health and HIV for members of the BAME community within Bristol and BNNSG.

What did we hear?

The benefits of peer-led interventions being run here which have also successfully been used in Africa to help the Black African community by listening to their problems about sexual health. Stephanie Mitchell, consultant from Terrence Higgins Trust, spoke about the survey and the successes they had in engaging some of the BAME community in being involved with the survey to find out if and how individuals are accessing sexual health services.

Researching barriers or concerns that might impact on using services. She spoke about major barriers in getting people coming forward for testing and learning more about sexual health issues. The survey covered contraception, attitudes to some types of contraceptives, sexual relations and HIV testing. HWB was present with many other organisations

A snippet of the findings

122 surveys responses were received.
How many have used a sexual health service?
There was an even split: 50% saying they have used sexual health services and 50% reporting they had not.

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Healthwatch Bristol present at launch of survey by Terrace Higgins Trust about BAME sexual Health in Bristol.

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within the unity of sexual health partners and other external partners to help ensure, where possible, that people within BAME communities can access the sexual health services they require.

Lots of discussions were had and solutions suggested to enable more collaborative working to help BAME communities learn more about sexual health.

Suggestions were made for health promotion to be done in local community venues, where testing and information could be provided to raise awareness about sexual health issues.

Healthwatch will now display sexual health information at our health and wellbeing events to help raise awareness of sexual health matters. HWB has also invited Stefanie from Terence Higgins Trust to a prostate cancer

awareness day to help promote her findings and encourage people from the BAME community to learn more about sexual health issues and testing.

Healthwatch will.....

All the feedback Healthwatch Bristol gathers is analysed and used to inform the Healthwatch Bristol quarterly reports which are shared with Healthwatch Bristol partners including Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group, the Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board, Bristol City Council, the Care Quality Commission, NHS England and Healthwatch England. The quarterly report is also presented to the Healthwatch Bristol Advisory Group to propose further uptake of the issues identified in the report. The report will be available on the Healthwatch Bristol website (www.healthwatchbristol.co.uk) and circulated to our mailing lists via the monthly e-bulletin.



Image: Healthwatch at a Health and Wellbeing event

Healthwatch Bristol present at launch of survey by Terrace Higgins Trust about BAME sexual Health in Bristol.