

Identification of groups who were vulnerable to the wider health, social and economic impacts of COVID 19 in Bradford

In Bradford we worked to define, quantify and understand needs and support for groups who are vulnerable to the wider health, social and economic impacts of COVID 19 and the control measures. This was a collaborative work between members of the Public Health Team and the Bradford COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group (CSAG). Whilst everyone is affected by measures to control COVID 19, some groups are experiencing disproportionate health, social and economic impacts. COVID 19 both amplified the existing inequalities in society and created new risks and impacts for people who may not previously have considered themselves to be vulnerable.

The following groups were identified as particularly vulnerable to wider health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19. These categories overlap (some people face multiple vulnerabilities) and are likely to change throughout the COVID 19 response.

a) POVERTY AND EMPLOYMENT	b) HEALTH AND DISABILITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households and children living in poverty • Households with food poverty/insecurity • Households with insecure or poor-quality housing or in HMOs • Homeless people • Self-employed people and their households • People with precarious employment and their households • Unemployed or furloughed people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with long term health conditions • People with physical disabilities or communication difficulties • People with autism or learning disabilities • People with mental illness • People with alcohol or drug use problems • People with an unpaid caring responsibility
c) PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	d) OTHER VULNERABILITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds • Recent migrants'/ asylum seekers and refugees • Central and Eastern European people • Roma and traveller people • Pregnant women and new parents • LGBT people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single person households (especially single over 70) • Lone parent families • Digitally excluded people • People at risk of domestic violence or abuse • Children at risk of safeguarding concerns • People who have recently left prison • People experiencing gambling harms • People who are engaged in or at risk of sex working

Six categories of needs were identified to guide service provision and support:

- a) Basic needs (including food, housing, financial),
- b) Security,
- c) Physical and mental health,
- d) Psychological,
- e) Social,
- f) Education and Development.

For each of the vulnerable groups identified, we worked to a) understand the needs and impacts, b) map current support in place and gaps, and c) identify options for further support.

This work can be used as a framework to recognise groups who are particularly vulnerable to health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and to guide support and monitoring.

For more information, contact Kathryn Ingold <Kathryn.Ingold@bradford.gov.uk>