



# Welcome and Introductions

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# Overview of the Summit Findings

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Engagement and  
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NHS England, London Region and  
Co-Chair, LBHP**





# Health Inequalities and Representation

## Key Issues Identified at the Summit

### Low Representation in Healthcare Leadership:

- Bangladeshis are significantly underrepresented in senior NHS management.
- Limited decision-making influence impacts culturally appropriate care.

### Health Disparities & Diabetes Impact:

- Early onset Type 2 diabetes is prevalent, leading to reduced life expectancy.
- Socioeconomic factors (poverty, overcrowding) increase health risks.
- High levels of deprivation in East London contribute to worse health outcomes.

### Barriers to Healthcare Access:

- Language barriers limit effective communication with healthcare providers.
- Digital exclusion prevents access to online health resources and services.
- Mistrust in healthcare professionals leads to lower engagement with preventative care



## Key Insights from Experts

### Dr. Shivani Misra:

- "The earlier you present with Type 2 diabetes, the shorter your life expectancy."
- Calls for early diagnosis and intervention to prevent severe complications.

### Professor Kevin Fenton:

- Addressed systemic racism in healthcare and its impact on Bangladeshi health outcomes.
- Stressed the need for culturally competent healthcare solutions.

### Dr. Somen Banerjee:

- Advocated for community-centred prevention and holistic healthcare support.

### Rehan Khan & Ferha Saeed:

- Highlighted risks of diabetes during pregnancy.
- Emphasized need for targeted maternal healthcare interventions.

**Martin Machray** Urged for **sustained funding** and **long-term community collaboration** to tackle health inequalities.





# Community Based Interventions

## Strategies to Address Health Inequalities

### Targeted Interventions:

- Local champions (faith leaders, librarians, teachers) to raise awareness.
- Community centres, mosques, and libraries as key locations for health education.

### Existing Initiatives:

- **Making Every Contact Count (MECC):** Uses everyday touchpoints (e.g., barbers, faith centres) to spread health messages.
- **Communities Keeping Well Programme (Tower Hamlets):** Delivers culturally tailored health promotion.

### Strengthening Health Literacy & Access:

- Develop multilingual educational materials on diabetes and maternal health.
- Use social media and video content for health education.
- Train healthcare professionals in cultural competency to improve patient trust.



# Key Challenges Identified

## Vaccine and Immunisation Disparities:

- Low vaccine uptake due to **cultural concerns, misinformation, and mistrust in the NHS.**
- Lack of **Bangladeshi community representation in public health messaging**, leading to disengagement.

## Breast Cancer Screening Gaps:

- Many Bangladeshi women **lack awareness of the importance of early detection.**
- Cultural taboos around discussing women's health result in **low participation in screening programs.**
- Language barriers prevent **understanding of self-examinations and NHS services.**

## Community Collaboration Barriers:

- **Disconnect between NHS services and grassroots organisations** leads to a lack of tailored health initiatives.
- Current healthcare messaging does not **effectively reach non-English speakers.**

## Diabetes & Early Detection Issues:

- High rates of undiagnosed Type 2 diabetes due to **low healthcare engagement and awareness.**
- Digital exclusion prevents many from accessing **NHS online resources, booking appointments, and telehealth services.**



# Proposed Solutions

## Empowering Community Champions

### ✓ Train & Support Local Leaders:

- Provide **faith leaders, barbers, shopkeepers, and community figures** with training on key health messages.
- Encourage **peer-led health discussions** at mosques, markets, and social events.

### ✓ Expand Peer-Led Initiatives:

- Support "**Diabetes Ambassadors**"—local volunteers trained to raise awareness.
- Introduce a **Bangladeshi Women's Health Network** to promote screening programs.

### ✓ Community Health Advocacy Groups:

- Develop **monthly health forums** to connect NHS professionals with community members.
- Establish **mentorship programs** where Bangladeshi healthcare professionals guide youth into the NHS workforce.





# Proposed Solutions

## Enhancing Health Education & Literacy

### ✓ Culturally Tailored Education Materials:

- Develop **bilingual health guides and video tutorials** in Bengali and Sylheti.
- Introduce **easy-to-understand visual materials** for those with low literacy levels.

### ✓ Integrating Health Education into Schools:

- Teach students about **diabetes, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles** through community-based workshops.
- Collaborate with **Bangladeshi cultural organisations** to make education relatable.

### ✓ Social Media & Digital Outreach:

- Use **WhatsApp groups, TikTok, and YouTube** to share culturally relevant health messages.
- Partner with **local influencers and healthcare professionals** to dispel myths and promote NHS services.





# Proposed Solutions

## Addressing Healthcare Accessibility Issues

### ✓ Expand Drop-In Clinics & Mobile Healthcare Services:

- Set up **community-based screening clinics** in local markets, mosques, and libraries.
- Introduce **mobile health vans** offering diabetes checks, blood pressure monitoring, and vaccinations.

### ✓ Improve Follow-Up Care for Chronic Illnesses:

- Implement a **"Patient Navigator" system**, where trained volunteers support patients in managing appointments and treatments.
- Increase **proactive outreach calls** for at-risk patients to ensure follow-ups.

### ✓ Develop Visual & Audio Health Resources:

- Introduce **Bengali-language audio guides** for health information hotlines.
- Create **interactive kiosks in GP clinics** for non-digital users to access NHS services easily.



# Outcome Goals – Key Takeaways from the Summit

## Building Trust & Representation in Healthcare

### ✓ More Bangladeshi professionals in NHS leadership

- Advocate for **diverse hiring policies** to increase Bangladeshi representation in senior healthcare roles.
- Introduce **mentorship programs** to support young Bangladeshi students in pursuing NHS careers.
- Encourage **Bangladeshi-led health forums** to bridge the gap between the NHS and the community.

### ✓ Increased trust in NHS services & providers

- Strengthen the role of **faith leaders and local champions** as health advocates.
- Expand **community engagement initiatives** to include storytelling from Bangladeshi patients who have benefited from NHS services.
- Address **language and cultural barriers** by increasing Bengali-speaking healthcare workers and interpreters in clinics



# Outcome Goals – Key Takeaways from the Summit

## Improved Health Literacy & Early Prevention

### ✓ Higher participation in screening & vaccination programs

- Develop **bilingual, culturally sensitive educational campaigns** to increase awareness of the importance of breast cancer screening and childhood vaccinations.
- Introduce **targeted outreach in mosques, libraries, and community centres** to encourage proactive health checks.
- Organise **Bangladeshi Health Awareness Weeks** to promote preventive care, particularly for diabetes and maternal health.

### ✓ Wider use of digital & social media for health education

- Create **short, engaging health videos in Bengali & Sylheti** to explain common health conditions and NHS services.
- Establish **WhatsApp groups and social media channels** where NHS professionals provide regular health tips and Q&A sessions.
- Expand **community radio & podcasts** featuring trusted local voices discussing key health topics.



# Outcome Goals – Key Takeaways from the Summit

## Strengthening Community-Based Healthcare Services

### ✓ More accessible health services in local areas

- Expand **drop-in health clinics & mobile screening services** in high-risk communities.
- Improve GP accessibility by **offering flexible appointment times and weekend clinics**.
- Provide **free diabetes testing** at local community events to encourage early diagnosis.

### ✓ Improved follow-up care for chronic illnesses

- Implement a **dedicated caseworker system** to support patients in navigating the healthcare system.
- Develop a **community health navigator role** where trained volunteers help individuals schedule and attend NHS appointments.
- Increase funding for **peer-led health support groups** to improve ongoing care for diabetes and maternal health patients.



# Outcome Goals – Key Takeaways from the Summit

## Reducing Health Inequalities Through Policy & Funding

### ✓ Long-term, sustained funding for community initiatives

- Secure **multi-year government funding** to ensure the continuation of successful community health programs.
- Advocate for **equitable resource allocation** for Bangladeshi-majority areas, particularly in Tower Hamlets and Newham.
- Develop **public-private partnerships** to support grassroots health initiatives.

### ✓ Stronger collaboration between NHS & community organisations

- Implement **joint training sessions between NHS staff and community leaders** to foster cultural competence.
- Encourage **cross-sector partnerships** between faith groups, schools, and the NHS to ensure holistic health support.
- Support **Bangladeshi-led health research initiatives** to address gaps in current health policies.



# Final Impact: A Healthier, More Empowered Bangladeshi community

- ✓ Lower diabetes rates through early intervention & education.
- ✓ Increased life expectancy & reduced health disparities.
- ✓ Stronger NHS-community relationships & greater trust in healthcare through community-led education
- ✓ Higher participation in screening & vaccination programs due to targeted outreach.
- ✓ Greater Bangladeshi representation in healthcare leadership & policymaking improving representation and decision-making
- ✓ More culturally competent, accessible, and inclusive healthcare services.

# LBHP Summit



The landmark first **summit on Bangladeshi health inequalities** at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, on 24th September 2024, focused on highlighting Type 2 diabetes and pregnancy and diabetes inequalities, vaccination, breast cancer screening disparities.

From this a work plan will be developed involving place, system, health and community partners to address these inequalities.

[London's First Bangladeshi Health Inequalities Summit: A Resounding Success \(voice4change-england.org\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrrRYig_Psw)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrrRYig\\_Psw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrrRYig_Psw)

## LONDON BANGLADESHI HEALTH INEQUALITIES SUMMIT A CALL TO ACTION

#BanglaHealthSummit24



# Summit Highlights 24<sup>th</sup> September





# Summit Highlights

## 24<sup>th</sup> September



# Summit Highlights

## 24<sup>th</sup> September



# Summit Highlights

## 24<sup>th</sup> September



# Feedback



## Positive Feedback

Attendees expressed appreciation for the summit's format and content.

Comments included:

- "Excellent variety of speakers and representatives from a range of organisation types."
- "The World Café discussions were very useful for gathering insights."
- "It was invaluable to hear case studies and examples of best practices
- while having the opportunity to share learning."



143 likes

profkevinfenton Working together to improve the health and wellbeing of London's Bangladeshi community!

I had an inspiring morning at the London Bangladeshi Health Inequalities Summit at Tower Hamlets Town Hall. It was fantastic to connect with local residents, health and care partners, and such a diverse range of stakeholders who are dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of London's Bangladeshi communities.

The London Bangladeshi Health Partnership (LBHP) received funding from Legacy and Health Equity Partnership to organise this groundbreaking summit.

LBHP brought together an interdisciplinary group of key health partners with Bangladeshi community organisations and representatives to support the development of a strategic workplan, aiming to respond to the health priorities of Bangladeshi communities in London and mitigate against health inequity.

It was an honour to speak about health inequalities, racism and structural discrimination in my keynote address and the key actions we can all take to achieve ethnic.racial health equity.

Many congratulations to all the organisers for putting together such a fantastic event.

# Feedback



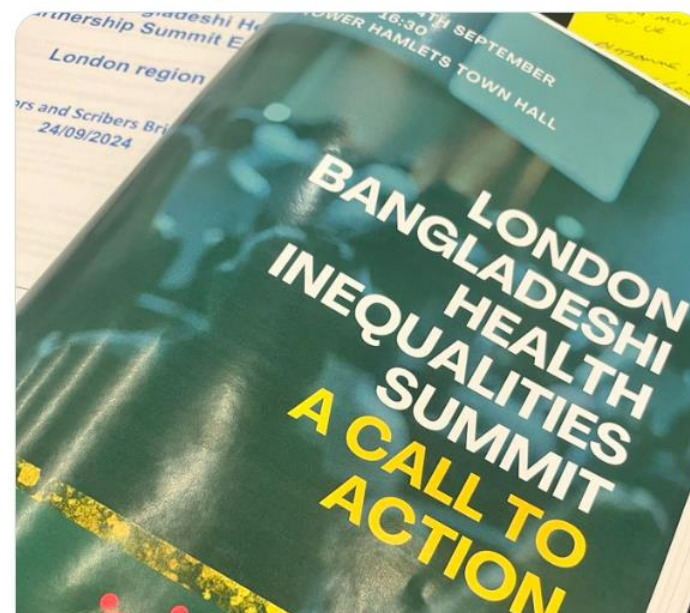
**Social Action for Health** @SAfHUK · Sep 24

Great to be attending the London Bangladeshi Health Partnership's Health Inequalities Summit today. [#healthinequalities](#) [#community](#) [#BanglaHealthSummit24](#)



**Anna Morris** @anna\_morris101 · Sep 24

Today I'm at the London Bangladeshi Health Inequalities Summit. Looking forward to a great line up of speakers and connecting with community organisations. Timely as we think about our 5 year plan to tackle health inequality [#Banglahealthsummit24](#)



# Feedback



**Genes & Health** @GenesHealth · Sep 25

Proud to announce Prof. [@Sarah\\_Finer](#) represented Genes & Health at the London Bangladeshi Health Inequalities Summit. Her keynote addressed the vital role of genetic research in reducing diabetes disparities and improving health outcomes. [#banglahealthsummit24](#) [#genesandhealth](#)

...



**North East London Cancer Alliance** @CancerNel · Sep 24

Fantastic turnout for the London Bangladeshi Health Inequalities Summit. We're here to support the Bangladeshi community, raise awareness of cancer and increase the uptake of cancer screening programmes. [#BanglaHealthSummit24](#) [#BreastScreening](#) [#CancerScreening](#) [#HealthInequalities](#)

...



# Feedback



**Voice4Change England** @V4CE · Oct 9

The inaugural Bangladeshi Health Inequalities Summit, organised by @LDNBanglaHealth, recently took place at @TowerHamletsNow Town Hall.

This ground-breaking event united over 130 key stakeholders from various sectors, including the NHS, public health teams, and the VCSE sector, [Show more](#)



Barts Health and 9 others



**Khasruz Zaman** @KhasruzZaman7 · Sep 24

Speaking at the Call to Action event of London Bangladeshi Health Partnership event today to challenge the health inequalities facing by the Bangladeshi community in London @NHSBartsHealth @NHSEnglandLDN @atabraham@LDNBanglaHealth





# Community and Media Engagement (Post Summit)

**Khasruz Zaman**  
Inclusion and Community  
Engagement Manager  
Barts Health NHS Trust,  
Vice-Chair, LBHP







# Post Event Media Coverage and Engagement

- The summit agenda extensively attracted attention of the local media and many media outlets attended to cover this event.
- A handful of TV channels and online platforms interviewed LBHP leaderships, community leaders and senior NHS managers and clinicians at the event.
- The event and interviews were headline news item by some of the TV channels including online platforms and websites.
- Post event, the LBHP leaderships also briefed many community groups and organisations mentioning the findings of this report will be launched and shared.



## Featured Media and Websites

[London Bangla Voice \(LBV\)](#)

[ATN Bangla](#)

[Runner TV news](#)

[ATN Bangla news](#)

[Manob TV news](#)

[Manob TV Interview](#)

Barts Health NHS Trust – WE SHARE

Tower Hamlets Council

London Bangla Housing Association



# Post Event Media Coverage and Engagement

- As well as websites and TV media, all of the social media also featured the Call-to-Action summit news.
- The success of the summit, media and community engagement post the event has created a great expectation that the community and system partners will work together and eliminate this historical unfair health inequalities faced by the local Bangladeshi community.



# Partnership Working (Post Summit)

**Bashir Uddin**  
CEO, Bangla Housing  
Association, LBHP anchor  
organisation





# Partnership Working (Post Summit)

Since the Bangladeshi Health Summit held on 24/09/2024 BHA and LBHP received some small grants from NHSE/ NHS NEL ICB / NHS NELCA to deliver health workshops





# BHA and V4CE Partnership

BHA and V4CE will partner to Deliver the following Workshops:

- Winter vaccination webinar for Bangladeshi Community on 21/11/2024
- Community led co-designed Workshop on diabetes in Newham and Tower Hamlets – 7/04/2025 and 14/04/2025
- Cancer screening and HPV vaccinations in Newham and Tower Hamlets in April- July 2025 (DTBC)



# **BHA and Local Mosques Partnership**

BHA partnering with local mosques in delivering Winter Health & Well Being events:

- Hackney Health Mela inc. preparing for Ramdan for Bangladeshi Community  
18/02/2025
- TH Eid Health Wellbeing Mela for Bangladeshi community – April 2025 (DTBC)



# **BHA and LBHP Partnership**

BHA and LBHP supported the following health events

- Health Fair – Hackney Town Hall 17/01/2025
- Bangladeshi Health Awareness Event – TH Town Hall 21/01/2025
- City & Hackney – Stay Warm, Stay Well - City Health Mela – Portsoken CC - 13/02/2025
- TH Ekushey Health Mela – Brady Arts Centre – 21/02/2025 supported by NHS and TH Council





# **Implications of the Summit Findings for Public Health**

**Dr Somen Banerjee**  
Director of Public Health,  
London Borough of Tower  
Hamlets





# Implications for Public Health



# The burning platform is equity



‘The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition’

WHO Constitution 1946



# This is what equity looks like



1. Resources to support health and wellbeing go those who most need it
2. Feeling connected is vital to wellbeing and importance of this is built into services and programmes
3. Being treated equally, respectfully and without discrimination is the norm when using services
4. Health and wellbeing information and advice is clear, simple and coproduced with those who it is targeted at
5. People feel that they have equal power in shaping and designing services
6. We all be work together to make the best use of the assets that we already have





# Implications of the Summit Findings for Barts Health

**Beth Brown**

Associate director, patient and  
community engagement and  
participation, Barts Health  
NHS Trust





# Affirmation, challenge, action

## Implications for Barts Health NHS Trust



### Affirmation

- Alignment with other Trust insight, e.g. language barriers, cultural competency, communication, health literacy, mistrust and lack of confidence
- Shared purpose

### Challenge

- Funding
- System-wide collaboration and complexity

### Action

- Faith and community leaders' forum – trusted people
- Public health collaborations on winter vaccinations
- 'HEAL' project (Health, Equity, Action, Leadership) partnership with Citizens UK
- Social prescribing in secondary care network
- 2026+ patient experience, engagement, and participation strategy





# **What's Next?**

## **Audience Survey for Interest Q&A**

**Dr Sharmin Shajahan**  
Deputy Director,  
Voice4Change England &  
Co-Chair, LBHP





# **Closing Comments**





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