

Overview: Bradford District COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group (May 2020)



In late March 2020 the [Bradford District COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group \(C-SAG\)](#) was established to add value to the Bradford District response to and recovery from COVID-19 by collecting and synthesising data and evidence into intelligence, tailored to Bradford District, in a co-ordinated and collaborative manner.

The group is led by Bradford Institute for Health Research (BIHR) on behalf of local partners, harnessing existing research expertise and infrastructure in the District and reports directly to the Bradford District Gold group which is leading the District response to the pandemic. The group meets virtually in two forms, one of academic colleagues at BIHR and the other a multi-agency group composed of colleagues from BIHR, Bradford Council and the local NHS. Work is currently focussed across five workstreams (Figure 1).

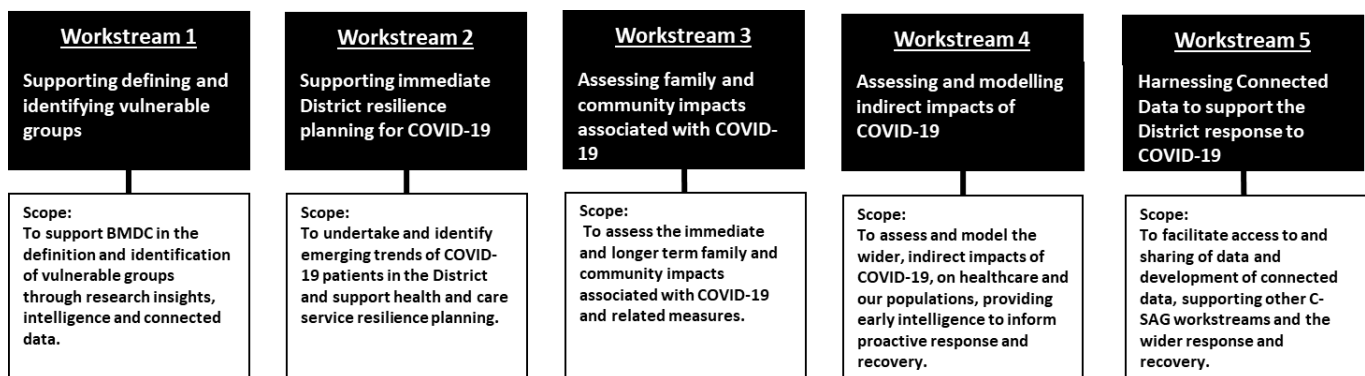


Figure 1 – C-SAG Workstreams (May 2020)

Workstream 1: [Vulnerable groups](#)

The NHS and Council have been leading work to identify and co-ordinate support for individuals left vulnerable because of lockdown and COVID-19 more broadly. Three categories of vulnerability have been defined and individuals identified. Registers of individuals who have been left socially vulnerable by the situation are not readily available. A discussion paper on vulnerable groups and recovery has been produced. From existing data and results of the forthcoming surveys, BIHR is seeking to support these efforts by identifying areas where individuals display multiple vulnerabilities but who cannot be easily identified from individual data sources. We anticipate this information will be available by early June 2020 and will further iterations due across the year.

Workstream 2: [COVID-19 resilience planning](#)

Analysis has been undertaken to understand how COVID-19 is directly impacting on populations locally with specific briefings provided on the impacts of COVID-19 on Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority people. An analysis of excess deaths has also been undertaken. Further analysis is planned, working with colleagues across West Yorkshire and focussing on relevant factors such as ethnicity and underlying health conditions, findings are anticipated to be available by July 2020. Whilst COVID-19 remains a novel virus, knowledge of potential ongoing health and care needs for patients who have recovered is currently limited. In light of this knowledge gap, information has been collated to help health and care services anticipate potential needs.

Workstream 3: [Impact of COVID-19 on families and communities](#)

During the lockdown phase we have been in contact with community representatives from across the District to understand the impact of lockdown on people in different communities and identify their key concerns. We will look

to repeat this community soft intelligence gathering over the summer (2020), working in partnership with colleagues in the NHS, Council and Voluntary and Community Sector.

Over the next 12 months we will be in contact with members of our research cohorts to understand the impacts of measures such as lockdown are having on families and communities in the District. An initial round of surveys is underway (Table 1). A second round is planned for September 2020, with findings anticipated by November 2020.

To complement the surveys and soft intelligence, more in-depth qualitative research is planned and will focus on the mental health of children and young people and health beliefs around COVID-19 within different communities in Bradford District. We anticipate initial findings being available by September 2020.

Surveys (Round 1)	Estimate for sharing of findings
Families (Born in Bradford and Born in Bradford's Better Start)	Late May / early June 2020
Survey of pregnant women and women who have recently given birth (Born in Bradford's Better Start and BiB4All)	July 2020
Survey of children (Born in Bradford)	July 2020
Older people (CARE75)	July 2020

Table 1 – Round 1 Surveys

Workstream 4: [Medium and longer-term impacts](#)

Analysis is planned to help understand the medium and longer-term impacts associated with COVID-19 on the use of health and care services, non-COVID-19 health conditions, recovery of COVID-19 patients and wider determinants of health (Table 2). Whilst some impacts will not be known for a long time the aim is to provide early insights and where possible model potential longer-term impacts.

Analysis	Estimate for sharing of findings
Study to follow-up the recovery, outcomes and continuing health needs (mental and physical) of COVID-19 patients discharged from hospital (<i>currently in development</i>)	Early findings late July 2020 and more substantial findings not before October and beyond
Analysis of continuing health needs (mental and physical) of COVID-19 patients diagnosed, managed, and recovered in the community (<i>currently in development</i>)	Initial findings not before November 2020 (depends on availability of community testing results)
Analysis of the changes in unplanned care from March 2020 onwards including analysis of Accident and Emergency data and that for mental health services	Early June 2020
Analysis of the medium and longer-term impacts of prioritising COVID-19 on population health including preventative programmes such as screening, disease / condition identification, management and mortality.	Not before October 2020
Analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 and the lockdown on wider determinants of health e.g. education, environment, employment, housing etc (<i>currently in development</i>)	Initial findings not before November 2020

Table 2 – Medium and longer-term analysis

Workstream 5: [Connected Bradford](#) linked data

BIHR continues to maintain and expand the Connected Bradford linked data set and provide relevant data expertise and infrastructure to support other C-SAG workstreams.

Yorkshire Quality and Safety Research Group: [Impact of COVID-19 response on staff](#)

Aligned to C-SAG the Yorkshire Quality and Safety Research Group are conducting a study to capture the real-time experience of staff across all levels and settings to better understand how a healthcare organisation manages during a public health crisis. Study findings will provide a rich case study that can be used within Bradford for future planning of such crises, and add greatly to our understanding of how to support health system resilience.