Focus: Lessons on the political and community leadership underlying successful public health approaches

Goal: Identify key components to successful reform, particularly in vulnerable communities

*A note on terminology: this group uses the “public health” lens broadly. It is consistent with the principles of “whole-system” approaches: collaboration across stakeholders, root cause/risk factor analysis, and investments into prevention.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Successful whole-system approaches to youth violence reduction co-create with the community, prioritize the voices of youth and the creation of safe, crime-free spaces.

- Youth involvement in identifying and implementing solutions is key
- Experts support process with humility
- Other stakeholders: police, education, social care, planning, housing, licensing
- Dynamic evaluation and adjustment central

On mental health and race, focus should be on inclusivity, dialogue, and holding the system accountable.

- Language matters
  - “Challenges” vs. “disorders”
- Healing circles offer a chance to share and witness racialized experiences
- Statutory services often don’t meet community needs; let them define their own

Traditional models around research and evaluation are Euro-centric and not culturally competent.

- Solutions are often not found in health or social care but in education and the community
- Must engage in new research exploring the impacts of systemic racism and austerity
  - Impacted communities are experts here

Important for all actors to take anti-racist, anti-discriminatory, and anti-oppressive approach.

- Disadvantage and discrimination are social determinants of health
- When creating opportunities, must write explicitly inclusive criteria for roles from internships up to board positions

Take an asset-based approach rather than pathologizing people and recognize the resilience demonstrated in their daily lives.

- Structures and systems of oppression are the problem, not the people
- Important for the individuals to know this and maintain their agency
- Assist each in telling their own story

Dedicated political leadership is vital for the ability to convene and align stakeholders, elevate initiatives, and mobilize resources.

- Brings power to change structures and ways of working the disadvantaged cannot reach
- Ensure resources reach those they are intended to benefit
- Community safety, employment, and education are powerful paths to removing barriers to access

Progress requires working both within and outside the system to hold it to account.

- Increase Black leadership in decision-making arenas
- Facilitate dialogue across racial divides, as well as encouraging majority to confront their privilege and its detrimental legacies

Dogged persistency and strong personal support systems are key ingredients for success.

- Systems are slow to change and built to maintain the status quo
- Important to build peer support, allyship, and community capacity
- National discussion can generate energy and political will necessary for local work

KEY EXAMPLES

- Lambeth Borough, London
- Birmingham
- Greater Manchester
- Black Thrive Global

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Evidence and Gap Map by Youth Endowment Fund
- The Lammy Review