

**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](#)
- *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein