

1. Impact on BAME children and young people

- Covid-19 has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and has disproportionately harmed Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. According to the ONS¹:
 - Black men and women are four times more likely to die from Covid-19 than white men and women.
 - Bangladeshi and Pakistani men and women are 1.8 and 1.6 times more likely to die from the virus.
- BAME children and families are more likely to live in poverty and poor quality or crowded accommodation².
- The unequal impact of Covid-19 on BAME children and families is linked to a number of factors including structural racism, discrimination, and health inequalities increasing the risk of serious illness.
- BAME children and young people are facing multiple and overlapping challenges which have been compounded by Covid-19 including:
 - Experiencing bereavement within their family and support networks due to Covid-19.
 - Increased caring responsibilities — BAME children were 1.5 times more likely to be a young carer before Covid-19 than their peers.³
 - Increased mental health needs e.g. anxiety.
 - More likely to be in or leaving care — BAME children were overrepresented in the care system before Covid-19⁴.
- Additional challenges for specific groups include:
 - Chinese children and young people at greater risk of hate crimes and racism⁵.
 - Black Caribbean and Mixed White British and Black Caribbean children and young people likely to fall further behind educationally — these groups had below average attainment before Covid-19.

Our services who support BAME children and young people have told us:

- BAME children and young people in low income households **struggle to access technology** to access education and support.
- BAME children are experiencing **increased anxiety** as they are at greater risk of Covid-19 due to their ethnicity.
- BAME children and young people are experiencing **increased racist hostility** such as being photographed and 'shamed' online for legitimately going outside.
- BAME families who have been financially impacted by covid-19 **struggle to access specialist food** e.g. halal.
- Some support services are **not responding in culturally sensitive** ways, for example local food banks making up food parcels with tins of corned beef or gelatin products.

¹ [ONS, May 2020](#)

² [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, April 2020.](#)

³ [Barnardo's, April 2019](#)

⁴ [Department for Education, 2019.](#)

⁵ [Metropolitan Police, May 2020.](#)

- **The National FGM Centre**⁶ has seen a drop in referrals to children's social care including FGM and other harmful practices — down by more than three-quarters in March-May 2020 from the same period in 2019.

How Barnardo's services are supporting BAME children and young people

1. Our Employment and Training Support services have used funds to buy tablets, laptops, data and smartphones for children and young people to access online learning and remain on their programs. Our Bradford Centre has the highest proportion of BAME learners and has supplied devices to many of them.
2. Our Brent Care Journeys services have tailored food drop boxes for BAME care leavers who were struggling to find items that would normally be part of their diet.
3. Barnardo's has been conducting weekly welfare check-ins with young carers & their families — disproportionately likely to be from BAME communities⁷, which has helped us identify critical needs such as lack of finance, food, welfare and tech devices.

Questions for the Minister

- How will the Government ensure that the support services available to children and young people during the pandemic are culturally sensitive, accessible and translated into a wide range of languages?
- How will the Government ensure BAME children suffering from poverty, mental health issues, and with safeguarding needs are identified and supported, while many have been 'hidden' from professionals during the lockdown?
- How the Government will ensure BAME children and young people access the promised 'massive catch-up operation' over the summer?
- What steps has the Government taken so far to engage with BAME children and young people and support BAME-led community groups and voluntary organisations?
- How will the Government ensure children's views and lived experiences are captured by the new Race Inequality Commission?

About Barnardo's

Barnardo's is the UK's largest national children's charity. In 2018/19, we supported around 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers through more than 1,000 services. For more information please contact Emeka Forbes, Public Affairs Officer, at emeka.forbes@barnardos.org.uk

⁶ A partnership between Barnardo's and the Local Government Association

⁷ [Barnardo's, April 2019](#)