Southwark Council has completed a joint strategic needs assessment, looking at the health & wellbeing needs of Latin American communities in the borough, and setting out recommendations for how these can be addressed. The report will be launched by the end of October 2024 – if you would like to request a copy once it has launched please email [marek.zmroczek-sterenberg@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:marek.zmroczek-sterenberg@southwark.gov.uk)

The report is timely, as recently released data from the 2021 Census shows that Southwark has a growing Latin American community. The report explores:

* evidence around specific inequalities in health outcomes for Latin American communities
* barriers Latin American communities face to accessing services
* challenges around data collection and inequalities monitoring for understanding Latin American community needs
* issues around access to secure employment for Latin American communities

The report draws on previous research with Latin American communities, and in-depth stakeholder and public engagement work.

The report makes a set of recommendations, agreed to by stakeholders across the council and local NHS, and developed in partnership with voluntary sector organisations such as IRMO and LAWRS.

The cross-cutting recommendations cover:

* Access to healthcare and other local services, including interpretation and translation
* Partnership working around specific illnesses which are more common in Latin American communities in London than in the general population, such as Chagas disease and HIV
* Improving coordination of work in Southwark and across London around Latin American health inequalities
* Supporting wider wellbeing of Latin American communities, including around employment and domestic violence
* Improving the collection of equalities monitoring data in Southwark across all sectors to better understand the experiences and outcomes of our Latin American residents