

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SMT – 31st AUGUST 2021

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD – 30th SEPTEMBER 2021

INEQUALITIES PLAN PROPOSALS 2021-2023

REPORT OF LIZ NOAKES, DIRECTOR HEALTH & WELLBEING (STATUTORY
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PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1 Introduction

The [national Marmot reviews](#) of health inequalities over the past two decades highlight that the persistent inequalities gap caused by austerity was widening well before the coronavirus pandemic hit. In Telford & Wrekin overall life expectancy in both men and women had stalled from 2010-2019, and the inequalities gap in life expectancy between the best off and worst off communities had increased. The local picture for healthy life expectancy is even more stark. The pandemic has impacted on our health and wellbeing in far reaching ways, impacting significantly on already persistent health inequalities.

The [Black Lives Matter](#) movement, the [Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities](#), the [Equality Act 2010](#), [Health and Care Bill](#) and NHS England policy all provide clear context for reducing health inequalities for those most at risk.

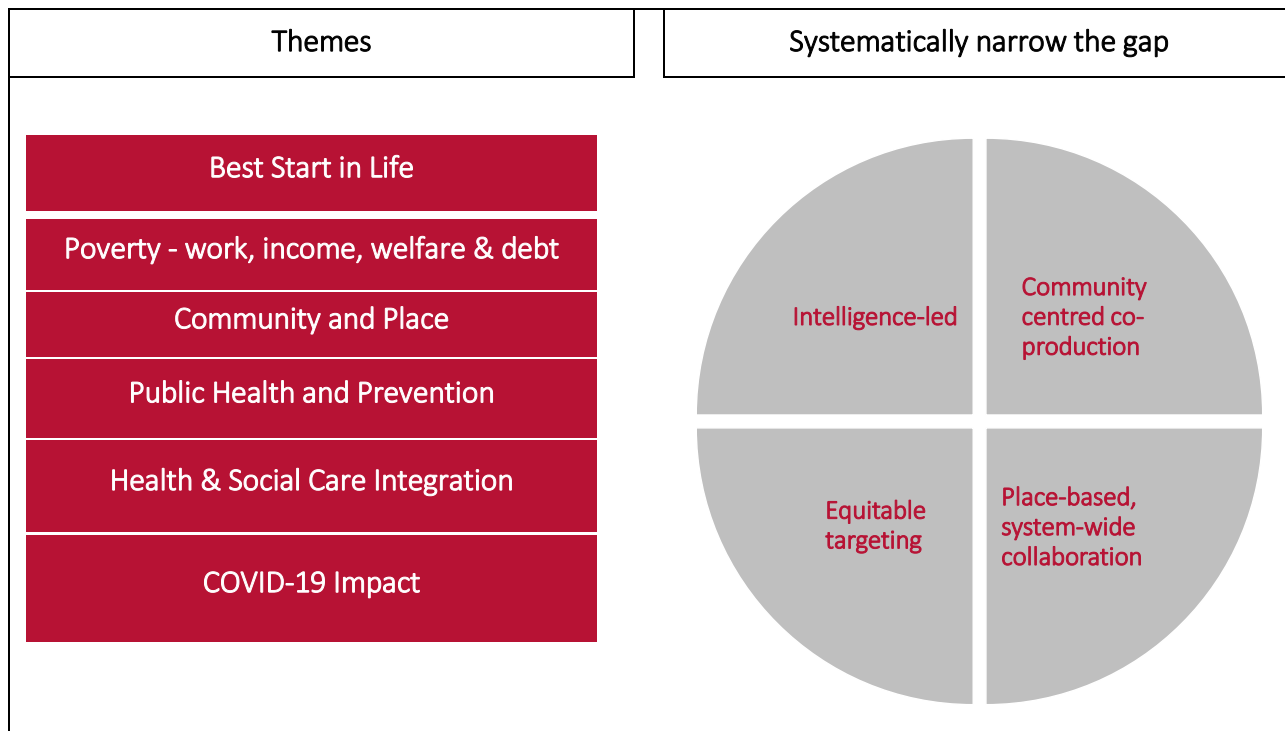
Our [Health & Wellbeing Strategy](#) clearly commits to **drive progress on tackling health inequalities.**

Focussing on wider social determinants as most important influences on health the Health & Wellbeing Strategy recognises that the need to accelerate targeted collaborative local action to reduce increasing health inequalities, by:

- Tackling the wider determinants of health – healthy homes, jobs, employment, income and education
- Giving every child the best start in life – to influence a range of outcomes throughout people's lives
- Improving the lives of the most vulnerable, people with complex needs, and those at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation

This Inequalities Plan for Telford & Wrekin is the start of an ambitious way forward for tackling inequalities. The framework is based on the broad Marmot themes and there is a commitment to evolve a systematic, targeted, community-centered, intelligence-led partnership approach.

Telford & Wrekin Inequalities Plan Framework



The Plan highlights key areas of focus across the six Marmot-based themes given the current picture of known local inequalities. Many of these areas have already been identified as important in other partnership strategies, plans and service transformation programmes. A set of key developments for 2021/22 are proposed as important gaps for improvement as follows:

Best Start in Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ implement a new smoke-free pregnancy pathway (as part of the NHS Tobacco Dependency Programme) ➤ expand initiatives to narrow the gap in school readiness and educational attainment for the most vulnerable children ➤ develop the enhanced parenting support for offer for those families most in need ➤ further develop bespoke, targeted support for young people who are NEET ➤ enhance emotional and mental health support for children and young people most risk
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<p>Economic opportunity - work, income, welfare, poverty, debt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ increase the number of people receiving welfare assistance (given Universal Credit cut from Oct 2021) – including a focus on older people ➤ enhance community-based debt support e.g. through CAB – increasing the number of people who benefit from debt advice ➤ reduce unemployment rates in young people and those from BAME backgrounds ➤ improve employability support for people with learning disabilities
<p>Community and Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ further expand tailored wrap-around housing support for our most vulnerable residents / those facing homelessness ➤ enhance targeted interventions to reduce fuel poverty ➤ expand violence prevention initiatives such as mentoring in schools and targeted youth provision
<p>Public Health & Prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ further develop the targeted approach of the Council's Healthy Lifestyles offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tier 2 weight management service for BAME community and people with a Learning Disability • whole-school approach to tackle excess weight in our most deprived communities • food poverty action – working with food banks • smoking support for people with mental health problems and those in routine and manual roles through workplaces ➤ NHS England* – Health Inequalities and Prevention requirements Integrated Care Systems e.g. smoking, weight management and alcohol
<p>Health & Social Care Integration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ expand community and peer support for people with mental illness, learning disabilities and autism, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend calm cafes • improve access to mental health services • reduce social isolation • improve the uptake of preventative health care • enhance the assisted technology offer
<p>COVID-19 Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ continue to evolve the offer of COVID testing for both asymptomatic/symptomatic testing (LFT/rapid & PCR testing) in areas and groups where testing rates are lowest, through community venues and community champions ➤ develop a sustainable delivery model to improve uptake of COVID immunisation in those most at risk, including a comprehensive programme immunisation pop up clinics at accessible workplace and community venues ➤ NHS to restore services inclusively – e.g. improve early diagnosis of cancer and screening programme uptake in those most at risk

While certain local health inequalities are already well known and programmes to tackle these can be developed quickly, an approach to systematically identify inequalities which are currently less clear is needed in order to implement plans, programmes and interventions to narrow the gap and improve outcomes over the medium to longer term. This includes:

- Ensuring an intelligence-led approach (often referred to by the NHS as [population health management](#)) shapes our understanding of local inequalities to drive action
- Developing a systematic approach to understanding what factors are causing poor outcomes in different population groups, with a focus on deprivation, disparities and diversity e.g.:
 - deprived communities
 - people with poor mental health
 - [Equality Act protected characteristics](#)
 - those from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds
 - inclusion health populations
 - people with physical disabilities
 - people with learning disabilities and autism
 - people experiencing frailty
- Developing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment profiling to understand need and unmet need and how people use and benefit (or not) from health and social care and community services and support – this includes data and information and insight from community engagement and consultation
- Developing a comprehensive performance and outcomes framework to monitor progress

The Health Inequalities Plan will therefore evolve and be refreshed on an annual basis with regular reporting to the Board against the specific outcomes and interventions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to approve Telford & Wrekin Inequalities Plan 2021 - 2023 proposals.

SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council priorities?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community • Everyone benefits from a thriving economy • All neighbourhoods are a great place to live • Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency • Community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	This Inequalities Plan aims to deliver commitments of the health and wellbeing strategy to drive progress in reducing health inequalities. There is a particular focus on our most deprived communities, people from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups and children, young people and adults who are vulnerable and have complex needs.
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	The Plan will initially cover the period 2021/22-2022/23 with a commitment to regular monitoring, update and refresh.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The developments for 21/22 will be funded from within existing resources. The Inequalities Plan for 2021 to 2023 will be annually refreshed and any funding required in addition to existing resources will need to be identified before the refreshed Plan can be approved. TAS 21.09.2021
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Pursuant to section 149 Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED,) the Council is obliged, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to: a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct which the Act prohibits; b. Advance equality of opportunity; and c. Foster good relations between people who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not. Health Inequalities are systematic, unfair and preventable differences in health outcomes including protected characteristics as covered by the Equalities Act 2010. This report details the work being undertaken in relation to health inequalities which assists the Council to comply with its legal duties. (RP 20/09/21)

OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<p>The Health & Wellbeing Board have committed to use community-centred approaches to help build connected and empowered communities and putting communities at the heart of everything through meaningful engagement and co-production will support reducing health inequalities.</p> <p>The Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership is key to tackling the complex issue of inequalities within the integrated care arena.</p> <p>This strategic place-based inequalities plan links with NHS England expectations for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care System in line with the NHS Long-Term Plan and recognising the COVID-19 impact has had on our communities.</p>
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	<p>Borough-wide impact is expected across those groups of people most likely to face health inequalities, but focused impact is planned in wards highest levels socioeconomic deprivation.</p>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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