

Committee(s): Health and Wellbeing Board	Dated: 29/11/2022
Subject: Implementing a 'health in all policies' approach to strengthen local action to reduce health inequalities	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2,3
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health; Clare Chamberlain, Executive Director, Community and Children's Services	For decision
Report author: Jayne Taylor, Consultant in Public Health	

Summary

In September 2020, Health and Wellbeing Board Members resolved to provide strategic oversight of actions to tackle health inequalities in the City of London, and restated their commitment to adopt a 'health in all policies' approach.

This paper provides an update on the work of the City & Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group in leading the development and implementation of a local framework for action. In the context of progress with this work over the past two years, the Board is asked to reaffirm its previous commitment to adopt a 'health in all policies' approach, and consider how it can maximise its strategic influence to strengthen collective local efforts to reduce health inequalities and improve population health.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report, including progress over the past two years to implement a programme of work to reduce health inequalities and improve population health across the City and Hackney.
- Reaffirm the Board's commitment to adopting a 'health in all policies' approach.
- Define the tools, resources and other support that would help the Board to (more) explicitly incorporate consideration of health inequalities in its work.

- Consider further actions that the Board can take to ensure it is using all levers at its disposal to influence wider Corporation strategies and plans to improve population health and reduce health inequalities.

Main Report

Background

1. Health inequalities are avoidable and unjust differences in health outcomes between groups of people or communities and are defined according to a number of different dimensions (see Box 1 below). Taking action to reduce health inequalities is a matter of social justice.

Box 1: 'Dimensions' of health inequalities

Protected characteristics: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, ethnicity/race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity

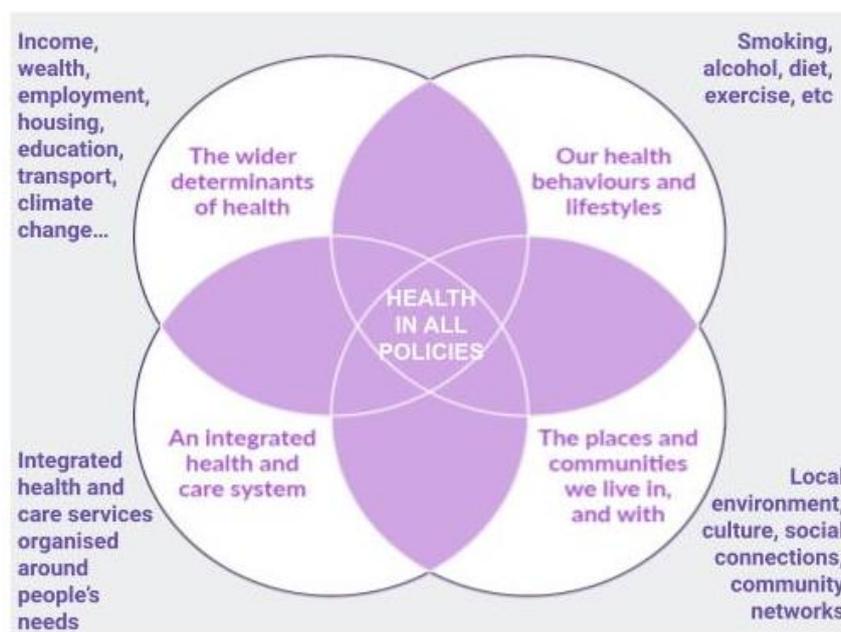
Social inequalities: poverty, housing, education, unemployment, etc

Geographical inequalities: urban vs rural, local area deprivation, etc

Vulnerability: carers, rough sleepers, care leavers, people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) etc

2. The unequal distribution of population health outcomes is driven by a complex interaction of individual, community and structural factors. Tackling health inequalities and improving population health requires action at multiple levels and across all sections of society. This means addressing all four 'pillars' of a population health system (see figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Population Health Framework¹



3. At the heart of this population health framework is a **'health in all policies' (HiaP) approach**, which is based on the recognition that our greatest health challenges cannot be resolved through the health and care system alone, but are highly complex and most commonly driven by social, economic and environmental factors. A HiaP approach systematically and explicitly incorporates health improvement and health equality objectives into decision-making across sectors and policy areas, seeking to avoid harmful impacts of policies and practice and improve population health and reduce health inequalities. HiaP is built on the principles of co-benefits: a healthier population, and greater health equality, brings longer-term social and economic benefits for the local community.
4. A 'health in all policies' approach implies a clear strategic role for the Health and Wellbeing Board in coordinating system-wide action, with a specific focus on activity in the areas of overlap and intersection of the four 'pillars' - where the greatest opportunities to reduce underlying inequalities are expected to lie.
5. In September 2020, Health and Wellbeing Board Members resolved to provide strategic oversight of actions to tackle health inequalities in the City of London, and restated their commitment to adopt a 'health in all policies' approach in support of this.

Current Position

6. In the context of the coronavirus pandemic and the stark injustices this exposed, the City and Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group (HISG) was formed in November 2020. The HISG was convened to provide a focal point for work being

¹ Adapted from, Buck et al (2018), [A vision for population health: towards a healthier future](#), King's Fund

done locally to reduce unfair and avoidable differences in health outcomes between groups and communities.

7. Membership of the group is designed to represent all four 'pillars' of a population health system - the 'wider determinants' of health, health behaviours, places and communities, and an integrated health and care system. Members are drawn from the VCS, Healthwatch, City of London Corporation, Hackney Council, North East London ICB, NHS trusts, and PCN clinical directors/health inequalities leads. The Corporation is currently represented by Saida Bello (Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), mirroring representation from Hackney Council (a senior manager holding the equivalent portfolio). The steering group is chaired by Dr Sandra Husbands, City & Hackney's Director of Public Health.
8. The purpose of the group is to ensure our collective efforts have maximum impact, and that we make best use of our combined resources to tackle long-standing health inequalities, through collaboration and partnership. It strives to do this by:
 - collecting and monitoring information about health inequalities in the City and Hackney and the actions being taken to address these
 - helping to prioritise further measures needed to prevent and reverse existing health inequalities (in the short and long-term)
 - mobilising local action, by working in partnership to influence decisions and empower others to act
 - using our collective resources to support the effective delivery of priority actions to reduce health inequalities
 - challenging, and taking collective action to address, institutional cultures and practices that act to perpetuate health inequalities
 - empowering local communities and our workforce to take positive action to improve health and reduce inequalities.
9. Early in 2021, the HISG defined 10 cross-cutting areas for system-wide action to reduce local health inequalities, including 'health in all policies' (see below). The first four of these are being led by the HISG, in partnership with relevant teams across member organisations/networks. The steering group's role across the other six action areas is a mix of influence, advocacy, challenge and coordination.

Box 2: 10 cross-cutting areas for system-wide action to reduce health inequalities

1. **Equalities data & insights:** Routine collection and analysis of service equalities data & insight to inform actions
2. **Tools & resources:** Develop and enable system-wide adoption of tools to embed routine consideration of health equality in decision-making
3. **Tackling structural racism & systemic discrimination:** adopt a partnership position and action plan to tackle racism and wider discrimination with local institutions
4. **Community engagement, involvement & empowerment:** build trust and adopt flexible models of engagement to work in partnership with residents to improve population health
5. **Health in all policies:** ensure wider policies and strategies explicitly consider and address health inequalities
6. **Anchor networks:** local anchor institutions collectively use their local economic power to lead action on reducing social inequalities that underpin health inequalities
7. **Strengths-based, preventative approach to service provision:** 'no wrong door' access to support for residents to address wider health and wellbeing needs
8. **Staff health and wellbeing:** build on Covid-19 risk assessments to provide ongoing support for wider staff wellbeing needs
9. **Digital inclusion:** pool system resources to address x3 dimensions of exclusion: skills, connectivity, accessibility
10. **Tailored, accessible information about services and wider wellbeing support:** produce information in community languages that is culturally appropriate and responsive to local diverse needs

10. In delivering on these priorities, the HISG works in close partnership with the City & Hackney Population Health Hub, also chaired by Dr Husbands. The Population Health Hub is a shared, system resource which aims to:

- lead specific projects to influence and support system partners to be more aware of what impacts population health, and their role in improving population health and reducing health inequalities
- develop practical tools to support this
- provide timely and actionable population health intelligence.

11. As part of its workplan, the Population Health Hub is leading the delivery of a number of projects in support of the HISG's cross-cutting strategic objectives. For example:

- a stocktake of equalities data across the health and care system (including a 'deep dive' of mental health and sexual health service data) and development of an equalities 'minimum dataset' [*1. equalities data & insights*]
- co-development of a resource pack to facilitate routine consideration of health inequalities in local decision-making and planning (collaboration with the City Libraries Service has been instrumental in developing this resource pack) [*2. tools & resources*]
- a series of workshops to co-develop a shared system framework for inclusive resident involvement to improve population health outcomes; plus completion of an equalities impact assessment of current resident engagement mechanisms [*4. Community engagement, involvement & empowerment*].

12. Another major programme of work that is being progressed by the HISG is the development of an action plan to embed an explicit anti-racist approach in tackling health inequalities across the City and Hackney. In addition, a scoping study is underway to identify opportunities for system-wide action to improve 'health literacy' across our diverse local communities, with agreed actions to be taken forward via the Population Health Hub.

13. The HISG has also hosted a number of conversations to review and offer support for work being led by wider system partners on a number of other priority areas, including: strengths-based approaches; staff health and wellbeing; digital inclusion; and anchor networks.

14. Finally, the steering group has been working closely with the North East London Population Health and Health Inequalities Steering Group from the outset, to ensure our focus is on action needed at local level, while working in partnership through the ICS where it makes most sense for action to be taken at a sub-regional level. The culmination of this partnership to date is the recent award of £900k from a NEL allocation of £6.6m (2022/23), as part of a national NHS fund for tackling health inequalities. Over half of the City and Hackney allocated funding will be used to develop and test approaches to embedding health equality in service plans and delivery, using the Marmot principle of 'proportionate universalism' (i.e. scale and intensity of interventions delivered in proportion to need), building on work already underway, including many of the initiatives being led by the HISG/Population Health Hub. The remaining local allocation will be used to fund specific projects being led by City & Hackney Place Based Partnership Transformation teams.

Proposals

15. In its leadership role to improve population health and reduce health inequalities across the Square Mile, there is an opportunity for the Board to work more

closely with the City and Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group and Population Health Hub.

16. Members are asked to consider the Board's unique contribution to local efforts to reduce health inequalities as described in this paper, specifically the 10 cross-cutting areas for action as defined by the HISG. In particular, there is an opportunity to review and refresh the Board's leadership role in embedding a 'health in all policies' approach across the Corporation and wider City partnership.

17. As a system resource, the Population Health Hub can provide practical support to the Board in undertaking its work. For example, by providing data, tools and prompts to help Members assess the health/inequalities implications of Corporation strategies and plans, and training in use of these tools. It is recommended that the Board works with the Population Health Hub to define the type of support that would be most helpful in this respect.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications: Through a 'health in all policies' approach, and the principle of co-benefits this implies, the proposals set out in this report directly support achievement of a range of outcomes as set out in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23. In particular, two core objectives lie at the heart of the proposals: that 'people enjoy good health and wellbeing' and 'people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential' (*Contribute to a flourishing society*).

Financial implications: None

Resource implications: None

Legal implications: None

Risk implications: None

Equalities implications: The proposals contained within this report are focused entirely on mobilising collective action to reduce health inequalities, including on the basis of protected characteristics.

Climate implications: None

Security implications: None

Conclusion

18. This report provides an update on work to develop and implement a framework for reducing long-standing health inequalities across the City and Hackney. It sets out how the work of the Board contributes to these objectives through the 'health in all policies' approach previously adopted.

19. Members are invited to consider how the Board's leadership role can be further strengthened to contribute to collective local action to improve population health, and the support that might be needed to do this most effectively.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Covid-19 Health Inequalities: evidence update August 2022

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