

Report to Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board

Date:	16 March 2020
Subject:	ROLE OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD IN IMPROVING POPULATION HEALTH AND TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES
Report From:	Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health
Summary:	<p>The statutory role of the health wellbeing board (HWB) includes oversight of NHS and social care commissioning plans and pooled budgets, encouraging service integration and oversight of the joint health and wellbeing strategy, which gave it a public health focus. Changes in NHS policy have seen a shift towards prevention and a focus on social, as well as behavioural and clinical risk factors for ill health. In Hackney this work is overseen by the Integrated Commissioning Board, which is also responsible for health and care commissioning and integration, leading to a diminishing role for the health and wellbeing board. Refocusing the HWB on tackling the wider determinants of health, takes advantage of its unique position to provide system leadership for improving health and reducing health inequalities, taking a Health in All Policies approach.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>The Board is asked to consider adopting a HiAP approach, becoming the strategic policy forum for health improvement and health inequalities. To put this into effect, the board is also recommended to consider taking the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree a set of principles for HWB partnership work – learning from Marmot or from the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) Wales (Welsh Government, 2015) 2. Adopt a HiAP partnership resolution, committing to identifying and pursuing opportunities to improve health and reduce inequalities, through coordinated action on named, wider determinants of health 3. Prepare a new joint health and wellbeing strategy focused on wider determinants of health 4. Review the approach to preparing and publishing the joint strategic needs assessment, to ensure it supports the HiAP approach and provides information on health equity 5. Create a work plan for the board, to include overseeing action against relevant strategies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. reviewing these through the lenses of health equity and the board’s adopted principles 6. Publish an annual report on progress

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After being established under the Health and Social Care Act (2012) and in line with the legislation, Health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) have traditionally focused on the health and social care system, having oversight of commissioning plans and pooled budgets and encouraging service integration. The HWB, through its role in developing and overseeing the joint health and wellbeing strategy (JHWS), also had a public health focus. With the publication of the NHS five-year forward view and, more recently, the NHS long-term plan, the NHS has ambitions to develop integrated care systems further and shift resources and activity towards prevention and wellbeing. In addition, primary care networks will be required to employ “social prescribing link workers”, with the intention that they will support people who require less medical and more social support and also tackle “wider determinants of health”.

In Hackney, over the past few years, the integrated commissioning board (ICB) has been established and taken over a number of functions from the HWB. The ICB now has the role of planning and assuring integration work, as well as strategic oversight of CCG commissioning. In addition, work on prevention and social prescribing at neighbourhood level is being overseen locally by the ICB, which is appropriate, in terms of the integrated health and care services that are being commissioned. However, particular wider determinants need to be specified, in order to tackle them effectively, rather than considering them as an ill-defined group of factors or issues. In addition, the wider determinants of health known to have the most impact on reducing health inequalities, such as the environment, housing and employment, need to be tackled at policy and system level.

The Marmot Reviews and the widely adopted Health in All Policies approach provide evidence and tools to improve health and health reduce inequalities. The HWB can choose to make use of these, as it refocuses its purpose more explicitly towards tackling the wider determinants of health, while supporting the ICB in its role in improving health through commissioning better quality, integrated health and care.

The Marmot Reviews

The first Marmot Review, *Fairer Society, Healthy Lives* (Marmot, Goldblatt, & Allen, Jessica, 2010) demonstrates the accumulation of both positive and negative health impacts over the life course and provided a framework for policy action:

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all.
4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all.
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.

6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

Marmot not only recommends these six areas for policy action, but also recommends that actions to improve health and reduce health inequalities are universal (rather than targeted), but are applied with an intensity that is proportional to need.

This familiar framework has been variously adopted. However, the recently released *Marmot Review 10 Years On* (Marmot, Allen, Boyce, Goldblatt, & Morrison, 2020) shows that there is still a lot of work to do. Some health inequalities have actually become worse and the increases in life expectancy that had seemed inexorable for the previous 100 years, has started to reverse.

Learning from Marmot helps the HWB to determine what to prioritise.

Health in All Policies

Policies, practices and services that affect wider determinants of health are mostly outside the control of the health and care sector. *Health in All Policies* (HiAP) is a collaborative approach to transforming the way we work to achieve improvements for our communities, by ensuring that health, sustainability and equity are considered and are at the core of all our decision-making. At national level, HiAP requires a whole of government response. Locally, it needs not only a whole council, but a whole system approach, to ensure that the key sectors and agencies are involved to tackle each of the wider determinants of health. This approach aims to improve the underlying determinants themselves – the causes of the causes of ill health – so leading to improvements in population health and reducing health inequalities.

The following are key elements of an effective HiAP approach (Local Government Association, 2016):

1. Promote health, equity and sustainability
2. Support intersectoral collaboration
3. Benefit multiple partners
4. Evidence that partnership works
5. Engage stakeholders
6. Create structural or procedural change to embed HiAP
7. Develop common monitoring and evaluation tools

The HWB is well positioned and could have the membership to tackle wider determinants of health and health inequalities effectively, especially since these contribute most to improving health and reducing inequalities. Only somewhere between 15% and 43% of health outcomes can be attributed to the health and care system (Fell, 2017) – the majority is related to wider determinants. Equally, health inequalities arise as a result of underlying structural and systemic social inequalities (Marmot et al., 2010), such as housing, working conditions or unemployment and education. Therefore, effective action to improve population health and reduce health inequalities requires system-wide action

addressing these determinants. It also means working in partnership, across sectors and agencies. The HWB is uniquely well placed to enable effective cross-sector, multi-agency working: it has a statutory role; is already established; and its existing membership already spans sectors and agencies.

In practice this will mean expanding the membership of the HWB, to include organisations and sectors with responsibility for key determinants of health, such as housing, and a wider role for the community and voluntary sector.

Recommendation

In order for the HWB to have an impact on improving population health and reducing health inequalities, it is recommended that the board considers adopting a HiAP approach, becoming the strategic policy forum for health improvement and health inequalities. The board is also recommended to consider taking the following actions:

7. Agree a set of principles for HWB partnership work – learning from Marmot or from the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) Wales (Welsh Government, 2015)
8. Adopt a HiAP partnership resolution, committing to identifying and pursuing opportunities to improve health and reduce inequalities, through coordinated action on named, wider determinants of health
9. Prepare a new joint health and wellbeing strategy focused on wider determinants of health
10. Review the approach to preparing and publishing the joint strategic needs assessment, to ensure it supports the HiAP approach and provides information on health equity
11. Create a work plan for the board, to include overseeing action against relevant strategies
 - a. reviewing these through the lenses of health equity and the board's adopted principles
12. Publish an annual report on progress

Financial Considerations

There are no immediate financial implications of the recommendations

Legal Considerations

Attachments

None

References

1. Fell, G. (2017). What proportion of health outcomes are attributable to health care – Sheffield DPH. Retrieved March 5, 2020, from <https://gregfellpublichealth.wordpress.com/2017/07/16/what-proportion-of-health->

[outcomes-are-attributable-to-health-care/](#)

2. Local Government Association. (2016). *Health In All Policies: A Manual For Local Government*. London.
3. Marmot, M., Allen, J., Boyce, T., Goldblatt, P., & Morrison, J. (2020). *Marmot Review 10 Years On - IHE*. London. Retrieved from <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/marmot-review-10-years-on>
4. Marmot, M., Goldblatt, P., & Allen, Jessica, et al. (2010). *Fair Society Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review) - IHE*. London. Retrieved from <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>
5. Welsh Government. (2015). Future Generations Act – Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. Retrieved March 6, 2020, from <https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>