

Date	Health and Wellbeing Board - 8 July 2020
Subject	Developing the Health and Wellbeing Board forward plan using a Health in all Policies approach
Report from	Donna Doherty-Kelly, Principal Public Health Specialist
Summary:	<p>Health inequalities are not caused by one single issue, but by a complex mix of environmental and social factors which play out in a local area, or place.</p> <p>Adopting a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) forward plan to systematically review a range of local policies will ensure that wider health drivers are considered across all policies within the council, and across health systems.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>The board is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the HWB forward plan as a framework for action to review policy and ensure that social, economic and cultural factors that influence health are systematically considered within all relevant local policy and strategy development - using a Health in all Policies approach. 2. Monitor the implementation of the policies to determine their impact on the health of the local population and vulnerable groups within this.
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1. Introduction and context

Health inequalities are not caused by one single issue, but by a complex mix of environmental and social factors which play out in a local area, or place. Health is influenced directly and indirectly by our social and community networks and the physical, social and economic contexts in which we live. A number of studies have shown that between 40-57% of our health can be impacted by socio-economic factors¹. We have recently seen significant direct and indirect health impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that structural health inequalities have played a role in this recent pandemic, as outlined in the accompanying ‘*Health inequalities and the impact of COVID-19*’ Board paper.

The recent 2020 Marmot Review² showed that since 2010, there has been a slowdown in life expectancy improvement, deteriorations in physical and mental health and widening health inequalities. The report also set out an agenda for central and local government to take action to reduce health inequalities. One of the mechanisms that Marmot proposed to reduce health inequalities in the 2020 report was to consider equality and health equity in all policies, across the whole government, not just the health sector. This approach was proposed to the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2020 (*Future Plans for Health and Wellbeing Board Development - Draft for Discussion*³). This paper proposed that the HWB Board should have a clearer focus on the wider determinants of health through a ‘Health in all Policies’ approach, which would accomplish two things:

- Provide a single forum for leadership on the wider determinants of health, where they can be considered in relation to each other - maximising synergies, reducing unintended consequences and monitoring the overall impact on health and wellbeing
- Provide a separate focus from the Integrated Commissioning Board.

The accompanying ‘*Tackling health inequalities through a new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy*’ HWB Board paper also proposes that we review, refresh and re-prioritise our pre-existing strategic plans through an explicit inequalities lens - both to ensure sufficient focus is placed on inequalities that have deepened as a result of COVID-19 and that our plans are broadened to directly address the needs of vulnerable groups. This requires system-wide action on the ‘wider determinants’ of health to tackle underlying structural inequalities.

Work on addressing the wider determinants of health through council policies is not something new for Hackney. A recent example includes the collaboration between Public Health and Planning colleagues in developing the Local Plan⁴, ensuring that health considerations are explicitly included in planning policy and practice - which, if adopted, will go further than the London Plan in promoting positive wellbeing through the planning system. The HWB Board is well-placed strategically to implement a more systematic approach to ensure that all relevant local policies consider the wider determinants of health during policy development and implementation.

2. Health in all Policies (HiaP)

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

² Marmot et al (2020). [Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On](#), Institute of Health Equity.

³[Hackney HWB Board Paper](#), March 2020.

⁴ [Hackney Local Plan 2033](#).

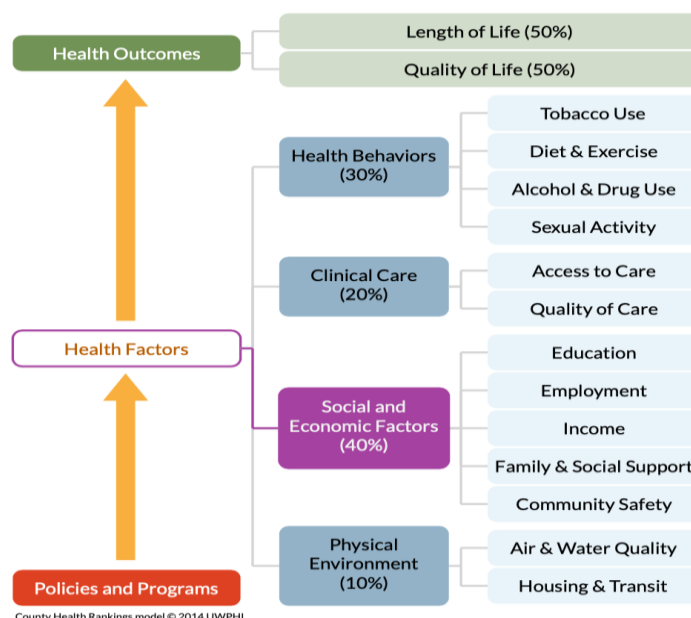
Shaping local policies to include consideration of the socio-economic and environmental determinants of health and health behaviours can have a significant impact in the lives of our residents.

Building on the previous paper which proposes a population health framework to guide the future strategic direction of the Board, we are proposing that the HWB Board forward plan adopts a 'HiaP' approach. This would involve taking a systematic approach to using each meeting to review a key local strategy/policy, selected on the basis of its expected significant contribution to population health. An example of what this may look like is provided in the appendix. The forward plan can be designed to provide timely input into strategies and plans as they come up for review, giving the Board greater influence on reducing inequalities and improving population health through positive action on the 'wider determinants'.

The County Health Rankings Model below is a useful framework for shaping the forward plan using a HiaP approach, identifying areas where local authorities and wider partners can make a difference to embed work to address the wider determinants of health. While this is based on U.S. data (and the distribution of influences may differ in the U.K. context), it highlights that factors beyond the health system play a significant role in driving population health outcomes (clinical care, in this model, is estimated to contribute just 20%).

Using this framework, local policies to consider for the HWB Board forward plan include (but are not limited to) transport, housing, economic inclusion, children and young people, leisure, green space, education, benefits, crime, environment and housing - as well as Hackney's Community Strategy that sets the broad strategic framework for all of the council's work.

Figure 1. County Health Rankings Model⁵



3. Recommendations for the Board

⁵ UWPHI (2014) [County Health Rankings Model](#)

1. Use the HWB forward plan as a framework for action to review policy and ensure that social, economic and cultural factors that influence health are systematically considered within all relevant local policy and strategy development - using a Health in all Policies approach.
2. Monitor the implementation of the policies through an inequalities lense to determine their impact on health of the population and vulnerable groups within this.

Financial Considerations

None

Legal Considerations

There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

Attachments

Forward plan example

Appendix 1
Example forward plan

HWB Board Date	Strategy/policy to review	Rationale for HiaP policy review
October 2020	Hackney Housing Strategy	<p>The evidence that good quality housing is critical to health is well established.</p> <p>Fuel poverty and homelessness have important consequences for health.</p> <p>Children are particularly affected by living in poor-quality housing and unintentional injuries in the home are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality.</p> <p>It is estimated that the cost of poor housing to the NHS is £1.4 billion per year (BRE 2015).</p>
January 2021	Hackney Transport Strategy	<p>Transport can be integral to improving equality, by increasing access to jobs, education and services.</p> <p>Transport is an important facilitator of social inclusion and wellbeing, which can affect economic and social outcomes, and therefore inequality.</p> <p>Transport barriers can be intimately related to job opportunities.</p> <p>Different socio-economic groups have differing levels of access to transport options.</p> <p>Some groups can be at higher risk of poverty and transport poverty.</p> <p>Building walking or cycling into daily routines in the form of 'active travel' are the most effective ways to increase physical activity.</p> <p>There are a number of other benefits associated with increased walking and cycling through active travel, including reduction in traffic congestion, improvements in local air quality, reductions in carbon emissions and road casualties, improvements in social cohesion and quality of life.</p>
April 2021	Hackney Inclusive Economy Strategy	<p>There is a strong social gradient in health outcomes. People living in disadvantaged conditions, with poor access to (good) employment, are much less likely to experience positive physical and mental health than those in well paying jobs</p>
July 2021	Hackney Children and Young People's Strategic Plan	<p>Investment in improving early child development, and reducing exposure to adverse child experiences can</p>

		<p>reduce antisocial behaviour and crime in addition to its beneficial effects on mental and physical health.</p> <p>Giving children the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving population health and reducing health inequalities.</p>
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