

CITY AND HACKNEY HEALTH INEQUALITIES STEERING GROUP

BRIEFING FOR HEALTH IN HACKNEY SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 31 MARCH 2021

1. Context and purpose

COVID-19 is acting as a catalyst for local action to tackle long-standing health inequalities, with a huge amount of work already underway across the City and Hackney to mitigate the inequalities impacts of the pandemic, as well as longer-term plans to improve the wider social and environmental influences on health.

Box 1: Inequalities impacts of COVID-19¹

The **direct** health impacts of COVID-19 disease are disproportionately affecting certain minority ethnic groups, older people, men, people with underlying health conditions (especially those with multiple conditions), care home residents and staff, those working in other public facing occupations, as well as individuals and families living in socially deprived circumstances.

Untangling the contribution of these various overlapping risk factors is complex, but it is clear that underlying structural inequalities are playing a role.

The **indirect** health impacts of service re-prioritisation, lockdown, social distancing and the longer-term economic consequences of the pandemic will continue to affect some of our most vulnerable residents and communities for a long time to come - including many of those described above, as well as carers, certain faith communities, people with disabilities and those with no recourse to public funds.

There is emerging evidence that women have been more likely to be furloughed or lost their jobs following the lockdown. And the longer-term social and economic impacts on already disadvantaged children and young people are also expected to be significant.

The City & Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group has been convened to provide a focal point for this work, 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.

The draft objectives of the steering group are to:²

- collect and monitor information about health inequalities in the City and Hackney and the actions being taken to address these
- help prioritise further measures needed to prevent, and reverse existing, health inequalities (in the short and long-term)
- mobilise local action by working in partnership to influence decisions and empower others to act
- use our collective resources to support the effective delivery of priority actions to reduce health inequalities.

The steering group's immediate priority is to mitigate longer-term health inequalities impacts of COVID-19 through coordinated local action. Broader strategic priorities for tackling health

¹ A fuller evidence briefing on the inequalities impacts of COVID-19 is available on request

² Terms of Reference will be signed off at the steering group meeting in March 2021

inequalities will be developed in partnership with the Health and Wellbeing Boards, as part of the HWB strategy refresh process.

2. Membership

The work of the steering group is guided by the same population health framework adopted by both Hackney and the City's Health Wellbeing Boards and the City & Hackney Integrated Care Board (ICB). Membership of the steering group has been designed to reflect all four 'pillars' of a population health system as defined by this framework (see appendix A).

The steering group is committed to involving residents in a meaningful way in shaping its plans. Rather than appoint one or two 'resident reps' to sit on the steering group, a resident engagement framework (underpinned by a set of engagement principles) is being co-developed to guide the approach.

Table 1: City & Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group Membership

Name	Position and organisation	Role/population health system pillar representing
Sandra Husbands	Director of Public Health, LB Hackney and City of London Corporation	Chair
Malcolm Alexander	Chair, Hackney Healthwatch	Places & communities pillar
Angela Bartley	Consultant in Population Health, ELFT	Integrated health & care system pillar
Ian Basnett	Director of Public Health, Barts Health	Integrated health & care system
Gail Beer	Chair, City of London Healthwatch	Places & communities
Nick Brewer/Jenny Darkwah (shared)	PCN Clinical Directors	Integrated health & care system
Jane Caldwell	CEO, Age UK East London	Places and communities
Jake Ferguson	CEO, Hackney CVS	Places and communities
Anna Garner	Head of Performance & Integrated Commissioning Alignment, City & Hackney CCG	Integrated health & care system
Claire Hogg	Director of Strategic Implementation & Partnerships, Homerton Hospital	Integrated health & care system
Sonia Khan	Head of Policy & Strategic Delivery, LBH	Wider determinants/ Places & communities
David Maher	Managing Director, City & Hackney CCG	Integrated health & care system
Kate Smith	Head of Strategy & Performance, City of London Corporation	Wider determinants
Jayne Taylor	Consultant in Public Health, LBH and CoLC	Operational lead (PH health inequalities portfolio lead)
Resident involvement - TBC		Places and communities

3. Strategic priorities

Following two strategic priority setting workshops (in December and February), 10 broad areas for action have been defined, with four of these prioritised by the steering group to take a lead role in progressing over the coming 12 months. These four priorities were selected as areas where steering group leadership could add most value to existing work that is underway (or establish new programmes of work where needed) by collectively mobilising system resources.

A named lead for each of the four priority areas for action has been identified from the steering group membership, each of whom will be responsible for developing and overseeing implementation of detailed action plans. These plans will not start from scratch, but will build on existing programmes of work, and describe how we will explicitly address the inequalities impacts exposed by COVID-19 - e.g. which groups/communities, health outcomes and/or service areas the plans will focus on.

Figure 1: Priority areas for action



4. Governance

It is intended that the steering group will advise and support both Health and Wellbeing Boards, and the Integrated Care Partnership Board. It will provide expert advice and input to the development of the two new Health and Wellbeing strategies, as well as a population health delivery plan for City and Hackney's integrated care partnership (including Neighbourhood population health plans).

The steering group will work closely with, and provide support to, other delivery and strategic groups (at both City & Hackney and NEL level) with the relevant expertise and levers to take action to reduce health inequalities.

Governance arrangements are yet to be fully determined and will need to be flexible to wider changes within the integrated care system (including the establishment of a new City & Hackney Population Health Hub). It is also anticipated that the work of the steering group and the Health and Wellbeing Boards will increasingly align over time, as the HWB Boards take more of a leadership role in improving population health and tackling health inequalities through a 'health in all policies' approach. As such, the scope and purpose of the steering group will need to be kept under constant review.