

Questions for Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board – June 2022

What support would be most helpful to HWB to better consider health inequalities in their work as a Board, but also as individual partnership organisations?

Potential options:

- Could the HWB use this toolkit to systematically consider health equity as part of the HWB's approach to health in all policies?
- Could these prompts be used to inform what information items have to bring to HWB, as part of their report/update to the Board (but risk of making this just 'tick box'?)
- Could HWB use the HWB strategy and the City and Hackney outcomes framework to identify key outcomes and request information from leads on actions on inequalities in these areas (using prompts within these slides)?
- Population Health Hub to support bringing together partners to map existing activity and identify gaps, for identifying key actions within the Health and wellbeing strategy

Context: *Making inequalities everyone's business*

- City and Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group identified the need to identify tools and resources to support different teams/organisations to better consider health equity as one of its ten priorities.
- City and Hackney Population Health Hub delivering some of this work
- Resource pack developed, this pack is being piloted with various teams/organisations/system groups (NEL clinical network, library service, planning teams, primary care, VCSE), to coproduce the pack and include elements that are most useful to different parts of system
- Resource pack includes:
 - Background on drivers of inequality and population health
 - Sources of information on local inequalities
 - Prompts to consider how to start to understand inequalities for different levels (teams/organisations/system)
 - Examples of tools which might support identifying and tackling inequalities
- Process and progress so far:
 - Share and work through resource pack prompts with pilot teams (above)
 - Identify key actions for each pilot team to identify and tackle inequalities
 - Support to implement these actions with each team

Tackling Health Inequalities in City and Hackney

Strategic and delivery infrastructure

North East London ICS: Inequalities Workstream



The breadth and depth of the impacts of COVID-19 emphasise the need for collective, system-wide action to address health inequalities that have been starkly exposed by the current pandemic.

The City and Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group has been convened to ensure our collective efforts have maximum impact, and that we make best use of our combined resources, through collaboration and a partnership approach.

Ten broad areas for local system-wide action to tackle health inequalities in City and Hackney

Act:

SG leadership and mobilisation of system resources

1. Inequalities data and insights

Routine collection and analysis of equalities data and insight to inform action

2. Tools and resources

Develop / enable system-wide adoption of tools to embed routine consideration of health equity in decision-making

3. Tackling structural racism and systemic discrimination

Adopt a partnership position and action plan to tackle racism and wider discrimination within 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

Sponsor:

Led from elsewhere, but SG role to champion, facilitate partnership working, ensure focus on reducing inequalities

5. Health (equity) in all policies

Ensure wider policies and strategies explicitly consider and address health inequalities

6. Anchor networks

Anchor institutions collectively use their local economic power to lead action on reducing social inequalities

7. Strengths-based, holistic approach to service provision

'No wrong door' access to support 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

Watch:

Monitor progress of existing partnership work to tackle inequalities

9. Tackle the digital divide

Pool system resources to address the 3 dimensions of digital exclusion: skills, connectivity, and accessibility

10. Tailored, accessible info about services & wider wellbeing support

Produce information in community languages that is culturally appropriate and responsive to local diverse needs

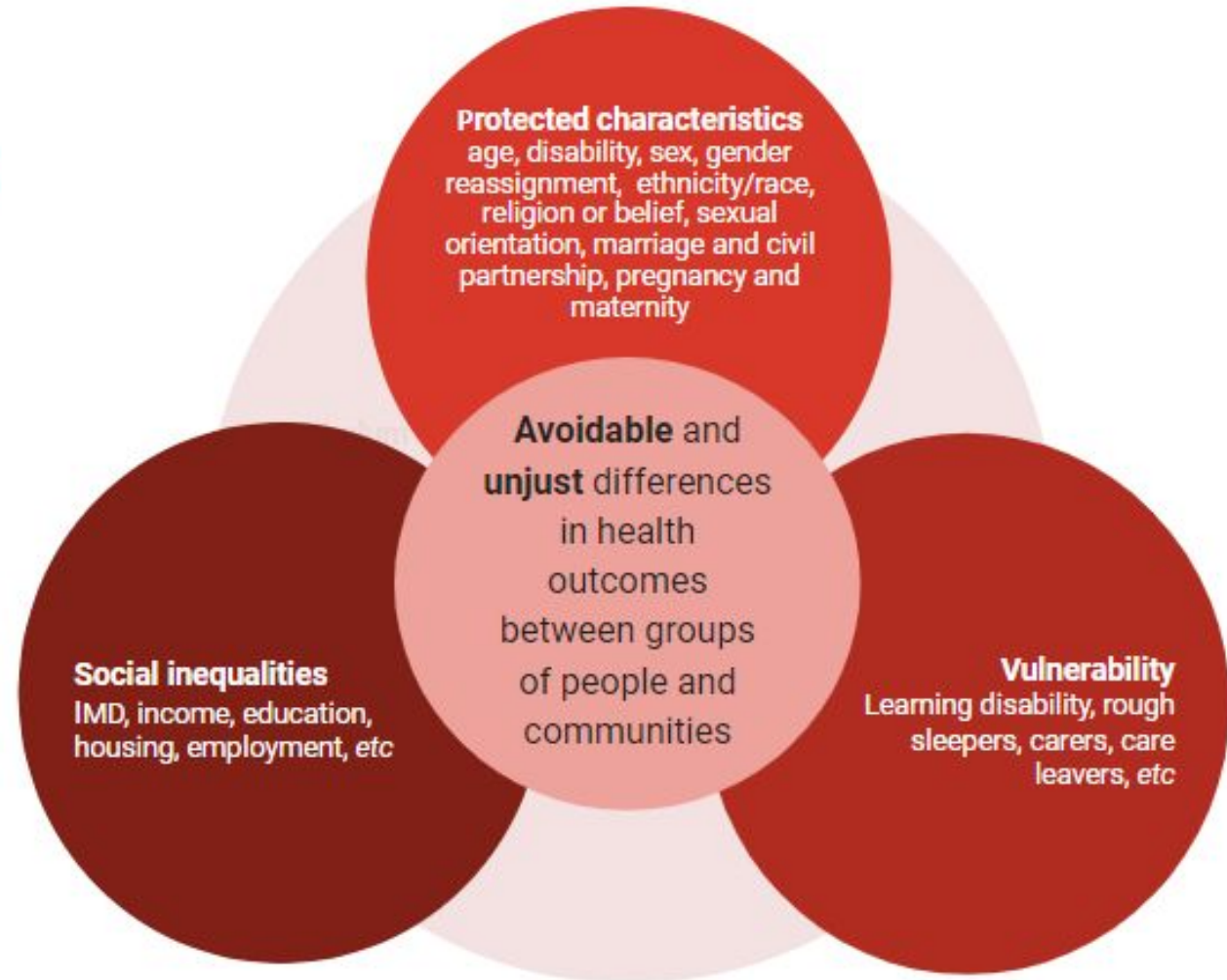
The **direct** harms of COVID-19 disease and the **indirect** effects of lockdowns and other restrictions have affected some groups much more than others, including:

- Our diverse, ethnic communities
- Older people
- Children / young people (educational and employment impacts)
- Residents of care homes / settings
- People with pre-existing health conditions
- Men (diagnoses and deaths)
- Women (social and economic impacts)
- People living in poverty or on low incomes
- People in 'key worker' roles and / or insecure employment
- People living alone or socially isolated
- Marginalised groups such as homeless people, asylum seekers, prisoners, street-based sex workers

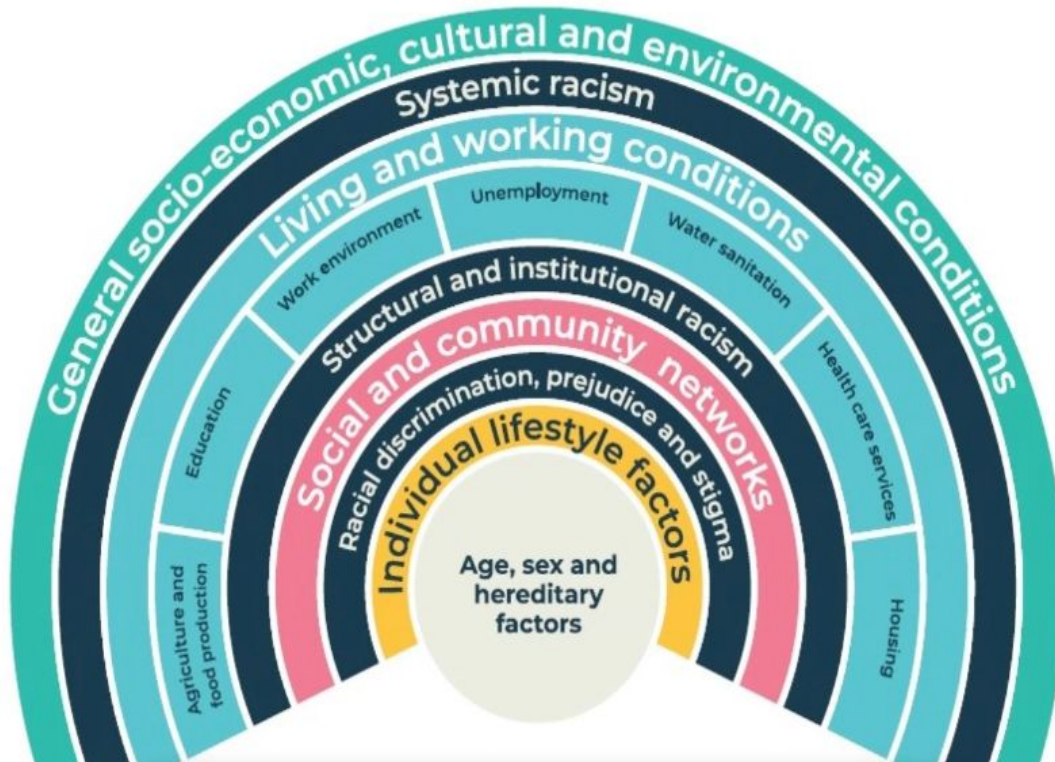
**What do we mean by health inequalities
and why do these matter?**

What do we mean by inequalities?

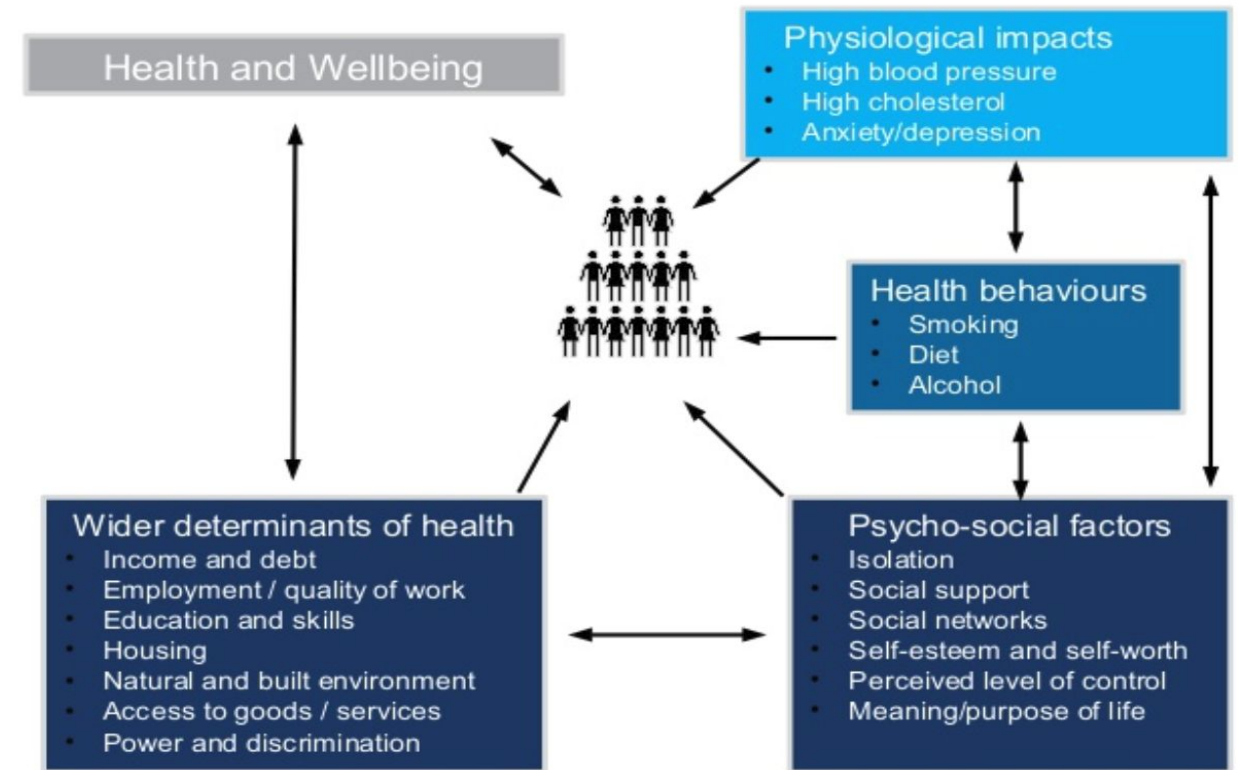
Health inequalities are avoidable and unjust differences in health status between groups of people or communities



What causes health inequalities?

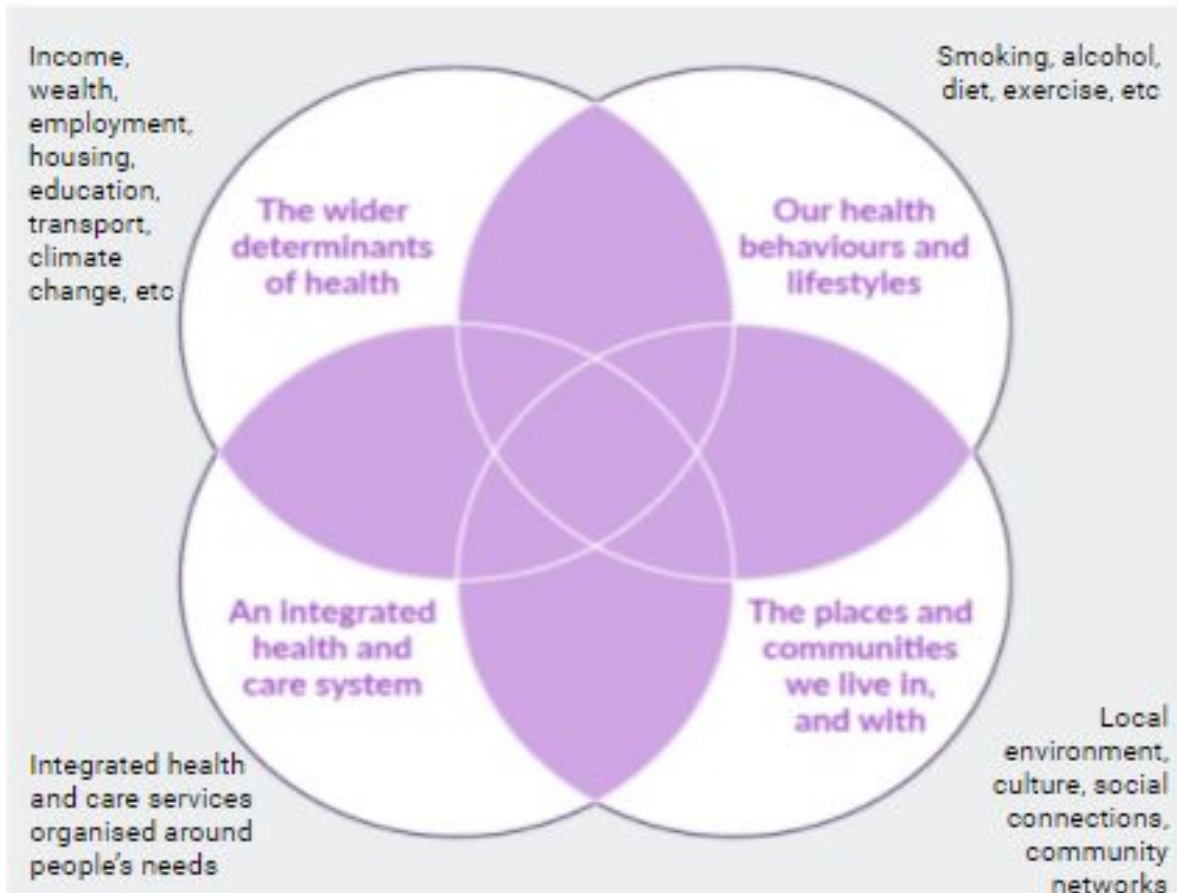


Source: Dahlgren & Whitehead (1993 – updated 2021)



Source: Public Health England, *Place-based approaches for reducing health inequalities*

What causes health inequalities: a framework for population health (King's Fund)



Source: King's Fund

Taking action to improve population health means...

*"...an approach that aims to improve **physical and mental health** outcomes, **promote wellbeing** and **reduce health inequalities** across an entire population.*

Improving population health and reducing health inequalities requires action across all 'four pillars' of a population health system."

Effective system-wide action requires:

- a **common understanding** of population health drivers, outcomes and effective interventions.
- all partners taking **shared responsibility** to improve population health

Potential sources of inequity:



Prompts to get started ...

Specific prompts for Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. *Has this policy/strategy/plan/programme/service been developed with a focus on how it might reduce inequalities? Are there any opportunities to develop this?*
2. *Has consideration been given to how it might unintentionally widen inequalities?*
3. *Has consideration been given to what different aspects of the policy/strategy/plan/programme/service might there exist inequalities?*
4. *Has consideration been given to what data/insight/information will be collected to enable us to assess and identify any inequalities?*
5. *Has consideration been given to how to make the service truly accessible to those who need it and those experiencing most vulnerability/disadvantage?*
6. *How will we know if this policy/strategy/plan/programme/service provide equity of access, experience and outcomes to our resident, again especially those experiencing most vulnerability/disadvantage?*

Tools and resources to support service planning and delivery – selecting the right tools

What tools might be helpful?

Equity audits

[Towards-a-Health-Inequalities-Audit-Process.pdf](#)

<https://health-inequalities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Towards-a-Health-Inequalities-Audit-Process.pdf>

Health equity tools

[Health Equity Assessment Tool \(HEAT\)](#)

[Reducing health inequalities in your local area: a toolkit for clinicians \(bma.org.uk\)](#)

[Tools to Measure & Address Health Inequalities - Health Inequalities Portal \(health-inequalities.eu\)](#)

What can it be used for?

Assessing whether:

- your service/team/organisation enables equitable access across local population groups
- there are particular groups not accessing your service/team/organisation, or accessing but not continuing engagement, or getting worse experience or outcomes?

To:

- assess health inequalities in proposals, experience and outcomes of our service and take actions to tackle these inequalities
- To look at the bigger picture, identify potential gaps and get an understanding of whether services are delivered to where the need is high
- To inform strategy or to review the effects of a service on health outcomes.