

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Developing a Health Inequalities Plan for Oldham

Portfolio Holders:

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Officer Contact: Katrina Stephens, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Simon Watts, Registrar in Public Health

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Purpose of the Report

This report outlines a proposal for how a Health Inequalities Plan will be produced for Oldham, key timelines and the role of the health and wellbeing board in overseeing this work.

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

Board members are asked to discuss and agree the process and timeline outlined in this report and input into this work as the plan is being developed.

Developing a Health Inequalities Plan for Oldham

1. Background

On 14/09/2021 a health and wellbeing board development session was held, themed around health inequalities. A discussion took place about health inequalities in Oldham following a presentation by the Director of Public Health about two recent reports which make a series of recommendations for reducing health inequalities across Greater Manchester. The first report is from the GM Independent Health Inequalities Commission, titled The Next Level: Good Lives for All in Greater Manchester. The second report is from Michael Marmot's team at The Institute for Health Equity, titled Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives.

The presentation and discussion highlighted several important points:

- Health inequalities have existed and have been known about for a number of years, however Covid has exacerbated them, resulting in worse health and social outcomes for those who were already most disadvantaged.
- Oldham residents in particular are badly impacted by these inequalities given the low levels of income in the borough and the higher proportion of residents from minority ethnic groups.
- Recent reports from the GM Independent Health Inequalities Commission and the Institute for Health Equity are an opportunity for action in the borough. A document was circulated which summarised system wide initiatives which was aligned with the recommendations made by Michael Marmot's team. This highlighted a number of areas where the Oldham system is very much fulfilling the recommendations, as well as gaps where more work is needed.
- It was agreed that following the development session a plan would start to be developed for tackling health inequalities in Oldham, which would draw on the findings from these two reports.

GM Report Findings

Key recommendations from the GM Independent Inequalities Commission report were as follows:

- The need for the region to tackle structural racism and all forms of discrimination by empowering marginalised groups; not just to hold decisionmakers to account, but to have a seat at the table.
- Universal basic services (e.g. housing, adult social care, health) should be available to all.
- A GM wide living wage and living hours should be implemented by 2030.
- Put wellbeing and equity goals at the heart of GM strategy and align budgets and programmes to these aims.
- Work with anchor organisations to drive social value, support disadvantaged groups and create good jobs.

Key recommendations from the Build Back Fairer (Marmot) report were as follows:

- Prioritise children and young people in all policy.
 - Provide further support and resources for early years settings in more deprived areas.
 - Identify the minimum income for healthy living in Greater Manchester and advocate for national resources to meet this in public sector pay.
 - Guaranteed offer of universal access to quality services for all, as well as universal access to training, support and employment for young people.
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- Develop GM minimum standards for quality of employment, environment, housing, transport and clean air. Advocate for enforcement powers and resources to support this. Encourage and enable residents to challenge organisations that don't meet these standards.
- Track progress through a series of Beacon Indicators that monitor whether improvements to inequality are being made.

2. Current Position

At the last health and wellbeing board development session, it was proposed that the board develop a plan for Oldham to reduce health inequalities.

Working to reduce health inequalities in Oldham is the right thing in terms of fairness and equity, but also makes longer term financial sense for Oldham's public services, the economy and Oldham residents. The sections below outline how this work can be taken forward. This work will be facilitated by public health, but will depend on engagement from partners from across the system as well as resident input.

3. Key Issues for Health and Wellbeing Board to Discuss

Role of the Health and Wellbeing Board

In-line with the functions of Oldham's health and wellbeing board to lead and coordinate action to assess the needs of the population and ensure the council acts to improve public health, the board is well placed to take ownership of this work on health inequalities. The membership of the board will need to be reviewed to ensure it can deliver on this work, given health inequalities are impacted by most parts of the system.

Process for Developing the Health Inequalities Plan

It is proposed that a health inequalities plan for Oldham is developed by:

1. Establishing a time limited task and finish group to steer the development of the plan.
2. Producing an overview of evidence linked to health inequalities in Oldham, highlighting key areas of concerns. This will be drawn from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
3. Engaging with key system partners and residents to understand key issues. Summarise priorities raised linked to health inequalities from discussions.
4. Meet with relevant system partners to understand existing programmes of work and governance and how they interact with the health inequalities agenda; summarise which priorities identified are already being progressed (e.g. by the Equality Plan, Anti-Poverty Plan).
5. Develop a detailed action plan for the priorities which aren't already being progressed by other workstreams. Named individuals assigned to each action with timelines.
6. Outline proposed governance to support implementation of the action plan above, emphasising the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in driving delivery.

Timeline for Development

Objective	Deadline
1 Establish a task and finish group to steer the development of the health inequalities plan. For discussion at November's HWB.	Nov-21
2 Analyse available data and draw on themes from JSNA to understand the	Dec-21

	current state of health inequalities in Oldham and recent trends.	
3	Carry out engagement with key partners in the system and residents to discuss what our priorities should be with regards to health inequalities in Oldham, taking account of recent GM Inequalities report recommendations.	Jan-22
4	Form a list of priorities based on reviewing the data relating to health inequalities above and from the discussions with partners and residents. Review this list at the January HWB.	25/01/2022 HWB
5	Understanding existing programmes of work. Health inequalities link to almost everything the council, NHS and wider system do. An important next step to avoid duplication and promote partnership working is to understand the range of ongoing work in Oldham and Greater Manchester which complements our aim to decrease health inequalities. This includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Oldham poverty action plan b. Oldham's Equality Strategy c. Oldham economic development plan d. Health system work to reduce inequalities 	Feb-22
6	Identify key gaps based on the priorities identified and taking account of ongoing programmes of work. Develop an action plan with partners to try to meet these gaps, including, where appropriate, areas where Oldham should be advocating at a regional and national level for change.	Mar-22
7	Health and Wellbeing Board review and approve Health Inequalities Plan for Oldham.	22/03/2022 HWB

4. Recommendation

Board members are asked to discuss and agree the process and timeline outlined in this report and engage with this work as appropriate as the plan is being developed.
