

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

A Health Inequalities Plan for Oldham

Portfolio Holders:

Councilor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Public Health

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Purpose of the Report

This report offers an update on the development of the Health Inequalities Plan for Oldham for discussion with board members and agreement of next steps.

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

Board members are asked to offer their input and comments on how the plan should be developed further and:

- Consider the actions recommended and how the HWB can drive delivery of these actions.
- Identify further areas for focus or changes needed to the draft plan.
- Support further engagement with residents and wider stakeholders as the plan is developed further.
- Receive a final version of the plan for sign off at HWB in June 2022.

A Health Inequalities Plan for Oldham

1. Background

In November 2021, Health and Wellbeing Board members discussed the development of a Health Inequalities plan for Oldham and the process for development. Since then, a series of working group meetings have taken place, with a significant amount of work outside of the working group, reviewing key themes highlighted in the GM Marmot Build Back Fairer report. Members of the working group include colleagues from:

- Oldham MBC
 - Public health
 - Employment services
 - Policy
 - Children’s Services
 - Organisational Development
 - Housing
- Oldham CCG / ICS
- Action Together
- First Choice Homes
- Oldham Community Leisure
- Northern Care Alliance
- HealthWatch

As each theme was reviewed, recommendations from each session were drawn together to form the Health Inequalities Plan for the borough. The table below outlines the key meetings that have taken place since the HWB discussed the development of this plan in November.

Date of Working Group	Theme of Meeting
17 th December	Public health services
14th January	Income, poverty, housing and debt
25 th January HWB Development Session	Health inequalities in all policies
28th January	Work and unemployment
11th February	Early years, children and young people
17 th February	Follow up session on work and unemployment
23 rd February	Poverty Truth Commission session on Health Services
3 rd March	NHS services and access
4th March	Review Draft Plan
18 th March	Advocating for policy change Review Draft Plan

2. Engagement and Co-development of the Plan

A retrospective review of the following pieces of resident engagement was carried out ahead of the working group sessions and the key themes from the engagement exercises were presented to inform the discussion:

- **Doorstep engagement team** – reviewed themes generated from 1000s of conversations on the doorstep with residents between from Aug-20 to Nov-21. Mental health, concerns about ASB, the environment and money issues were all key concerns.
- **Insight Tracker** – reviewed all insights that had been recorded in the insight tracker by professionals across Oldham up to Nov-21, with a number of themes around learning disabilities and mental health.
- **Community Champions Network** – drew on key themes that have emerged from a number of community champion network meetings during the pandemic.
- **Poverty Truth Commission** – emerging themes around the extent to which staff can associate and empathize with people in poverty informed elements of the plan.
- **Early Years Strategy Consultation** – wide range of points raised by residents which informed the Children and Young People element of the plan.
- **Homelessness strategy** – engagement that was part of the development of this strategy was used to inform in the housing discussion.
- **Covid-19 recovery plan** – wide range of residents offered their views on the impact of Covid-19 on their lives, particularly relevant to the employment theme and discussion.
- **Let's Talk Oldham** – residents identified a number of priorities relevant to the health inequalities plan as part of this engagement around the corporate plan.

Working group members offered their accounts of client/service user experiences in each working group discussion.

Dedicated engagement took place in the form of a Poverty Truth Commission session around residents' experiences of using health services. Wider themes about access, trust and relationships emerged which are relevant to all aspects of the health inequalities plan.

Further engagement is planned with residents to review the draft form of the plan and sense check the priorities outlined within it.

Further conversations with residents will be needed to inform how actions are developed and delivered.

3. Content of the Plan

At the time of writing this report, following the latest working group meeting on 4th March, elements of the draft plan are still being developed. Therefore, the content of the draft plan will be presented via a presentation to HWB on 22nd March for discussion with members.

4. Recommendation

Board members are asked to take note of the update above and:

- Consider the actions recommended and how the HWB can drive delivery of these actions.
- Identify further areas for focus or changes needed to the draft plan.
- Support further engagement with residents and wider stakeholders as the plan is developed further.
- Receive a final version of the plan for sign off at HWB in June 2022.