

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 15 November 2022

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Addressing Health Inequalities in Lancashire

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Clare Platt, Tel: 01772 532780, Lancashire County Council, clare.platt@lancashire.gov.uk;

Brief Summary

The final report of the Lancashire and Cumbria Health Equity Commission has been published and presented to the relevant upper tier local authority. The recommendations identified in the report provide a reminder of the need to address health inequalities through action on their social, economic and environmental drivers.

Officers have also been updating the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and will present a proposed approach to reflect the Health Equity Commission recommendations (Appendix 'A') in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy for discussion.

The Board is ideally placed to be the host partnership for addressing health inequalities across Lancashire.

Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Endorse the proposed approach to address the Health Equity Commission recommendations and identify those appropriate for inclusion in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- (ii) Consider and agree the leadership role of the Board in facilitating the actions to address health inequalities across Lancashire.

Detail

In 2021 the Institute of Health Equity was commissioned by the Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership and North-East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System, prompted by concerns about the high and unequal impacts of COVID-19 and the longstanding health inequalities within the region.

Members of the Board received an update on the Health Equity Commission work at the workshop session on 6 September 2022; and subsequently the [final report](#) has



been agreed and presented to the relevant upper tier local authority for consideration.

The recommendations identified in the report (Appendix 'A') provide a reminder of the need to address health inequalities through action on their social, economic and environmental drivers; moving from a more reactive approach to developing a system-wide commitment with key partners to achieve long-term reductions in health inequalities through action on the wider determinants of health.

One of the statutory responsibilities of the Board is to develop a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Whilst the Health Equity Commission work has been ongoing, the Board agreed three initial priorities to be pursued through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These are:

- Best Start in Life
- Healthy Hearts
- Happier Minds

The Board also recognised it has a role in:

- supporting the economy and anchor institutions to improve wider determinants of health and reduce inequalities
- developing our local voluntary, community, faith and natural assets so that everyone can benefit from them
- delivering person centred services that put prevention and best value at their core

At the Board meeting officers will present the proposed approach to address the Health Equity Commission recommendations and identify those appropriate for inclusion in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy for discussion.

The complexity associated with some of the Health Equity Commission recommendations requires wider consultation to identify where some of the work to implement the recommendations is currently being delivered, where similar work is in train, or where it best fits going forward.

For example, The Best Start in Life Board (which in turn is a subgroup of Lancashire Children and Young People Partnership) is addressing school readiness as a priority and therefore may be considered as the structure best placed to address the recommendation to "reduce the gap in level of development in reception age children and set a target that every child achieve above the national average at readiness for school at reception".

For example, the recommendation "In partnership between local authority, NHS and Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, develop a regional decent homes standard by 2025" is much more complex, in terms of the



size of the issue, the agencies and geography involved, and hence more challenging to action in a tangible way.

Furthermore, the ongoing work in developing the Integrated Health and Care Strategy and the wider Lancashire 2050 work programme presents us with an opportunity to seek alignment and avoid duplication.

Lancashire's Health and Wellbeing Board is ideally placed to be the host partnership in convening joint action to address health inequalities across Lancashire. The presentation at the board meeting will identify the initial work on embedding the recommendations across existing and emerging priorities of partner organisations and structures, including the Lancashire 2050 programme.

List of background papers

[A Hopeful Future: Equity and the Social Determinants of Health in Lancashire and Cumbria](#) Institute of Health Equity (2022)

