

Committee/Date:	Council Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
Report Title:	Health Inequalities Research: Waltham Forest
Directorate:	Strategic People
Contact Details	Joe McDonnell, Director of Public Health
Wards affected:	All
Public Access	Open
Appendices	A fairer and healthier Waltham Forest: Equity and social determinants of health

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to welcome and acknowledge the publication of the independent Health inequalities research led by Sir Professor Michael Marmot and the Institute of Health equity, and brief elected members on the key content and the Council's proposed next steps.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. Council is asked to
  - Acknowledge the publication of the independent Health inequalities research; and
  - Note the key content and proposed next steps as detailed in the Appendix A of the report

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In January 2022 the UCL Institute of Health Equity (IHE) led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot were commissioned by the local authority with the support and input from partners via the Health and Wellbeing Board to carry out extensive research to provide a deeper understanding of health inequalities within the Borough and understand the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on residents, and to refocus our commitment to tackling health inequalities within Waltham Forest.
- 3.2. In 2010, the Institute, led by Marmot, published the landmark report 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review)', which has since shaped all public services' response to addressing health inequalities. It identified key areas that shape health

inequalities and pinpointed the wider social and economic determinants of health. These Marmot principles have provided the basis for analysis of health inequalities within Waltham Forest, showing how all of the Council's areas of work shape and impact residents' health.

- Give every child the best start in life
- Enable all children, young people & adults to maximise their capabilities & have control over their lives
- Create fair employment & good work for all
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
- Create & develop healthy & sustainable places & communities
- Strengthen the role & impact of ill-health prevention
- Tackle discrimination, racism & their outcomes
- Pursue environmental sustainability & health equity together

- 3.3. The Commission was overseen by an independent advisory group. This consisted of 24 experts across the Waltham Forest health and care system, including representatives from the London Borough of Waltham Forest, the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCSFE) sector, the business and economic sector, health care, other public services and academic experts. All operations of the commission were overseen by a steering group.
- 3.4. While the research was commissioned by the local authority with the support and input from partners via the Health and Wellbeing Board, the findings were intended to inform not just the council's activities, but those of local partners, particularly those within the Borough Based Partnership of all health and care stakeholders. Integrated Care System representatives have been engaged throughout.
- 3.5. The IHE performed a comprehensive analysis of the data to assess health inequalities in Waltham Forest, key social determinants of health, and the health of the borough's systems. The research followed an extensive process of discussion and consultation with key stakeholders, partners, and VCSFE and community engagement.
- 3.6. This resident-facing research was an essential step in developing a shared understanding of the unequal experiences of residents. Further consultation and discussions were held following the initial findings, in addition to resident focus groups and four workshops focusing on the emerging themes. These were attended by key stakeholders, informing, and shaping the final report and recommendations.

- 3.7. The public launch of the final report is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The recommendations have been formed using local insight and will refocus the delivery of our continued commitment to improving health inequalities across Waltham Forest in alignment with residents' priorities. The final report includes 84 recommendations and national advocacy points for action. These include specific recommendations across the 8 Marmot principles, as well as recommendations specific to key local stakeholders, and for ensuring an ongoing structural response going forward.

#### **4. PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 To respond to the call to action of the final report, it is clear that addressing health inequalities within Waltham Forest will require not just a Council response, but a whole system approach. Firstly, we are ensuring that the core Marmot principles are embedded in the Council's new Corporate Framework, which will go to Cabinet in January 2023. Consulting and working closely with both health system partners, and a broader set of local partners will be an integral part of shaping our full response to the report. Our aim is to empower all organisations – not solely the NHS – to play their role in creating good health for everyone who lives and works in Waltham Forest. By working with external partners, we will develop a comprehensive system-wide response to the recommendations and action plan, to be published in late spring 2023.

#### **5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)**

- 5.1 Our response to the Marmot recommendations will be anchored within our corporate framework, which sets out our strategic vision for the borough centred around the concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods.
- 5.2 The corporate framework is underpinned by a commitment to working with partners and our communities in new ways to address the social determinants of health. Some of the key strategies that sit underneath the corporate framework include:
- Community Safety Strategy
  - Climate Change Action Plan
  - Housing Commission
  - Customer Service Strategy

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 Extensive consultation have taken place between January – October 2022. This has included:

- One-to-one consultation and discussions with key whole system health stakeholders, councillors, senior officers in local authority, health partners, VCSFE organisations and young advisors and young independent advisory group.
- Community engagement and resident focus groups to understand the specific individual experience and local insights.
- Four workshops based on emerging themes from the initial research and data, to provide local input on the recommendations developed by the Institute.
- Advisory Group & Steering Group for governance and operational development.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk**

7.1.1 At this stage there are no implications as a result of this report going to the committee, as it covers an existing area of work of the council and no change is proposed at this stage but may be relevant once the response has been scoped for implementation in Spring 2023.

### **7.2 Legal**

7.2.1 At this stage there are no implications as a result of this report going to the committee, as it covers an existing area of work of the council and no change is proposed.

### **7.3 Equalities and Diversity**

7.3.1 Taking action in response to the results of the full report would be expected to have a direct positive impact on this area, which will be scoped and implemented in response due in late Spring 2023

### **7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder**

7.4.1 The results of the full report will have a direct impact on this area, which will be scoped and implemented in response to the full public report due in late Spring 2023

### **7.5 Council Infrastructure (e.g. human resources, accommodation or IT issues**

7.5.1 At this stage there are no implications as a result of this report going to the committee, as it covers an existing area of work of the council and no change is proposed.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)**

None