

Appendix XX - Creating a City Without Inequalities Forum Highlight Report

1.1 Context

The Public Health Division refreshed and restarted work on the CCwl Forum and associated workshops in June 2021. The refreshed approach is incorporating the national Marmot review '*Fair Society, Healthy Lives*' policy areas for action. The forum members through collaborative leadership and co-produced actions across systems are seeking to turn these into tangible and measurable outputs. The policy areas for mitigating inequalities are:

1. Give every child the best start in life.
2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.
3. Create fair employment and good work for all.
4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all.
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention.

The national context for each of the policy areas for reducing health inequalities will guide dedicated workshops of the same theme and align with the *Creating a Healthier City Strategy*; (the Health and Wellbeing Boards' pending new strategy) and associated key performance indicators. The aim is to facilitate discussion on a Marmot policy area with input from relevant stakeholders to inform the subsequent Forum meeting, providing a sharper focus on the specific area and identify action.

As well as a thematic/policy area focus (with prior workshops), each Forum meeting will also include updates on cross cutting themes or specific work relevant to tackling health inequalities.

1.2 Current work

The Introductory Forum meeting took place on 8th June 2021 and 53 people attended; the invite was extended to both members and partners, Birmingham Youth Service young people (3) representatives also attended and actively contributed to discussions.

A new structure was introduced by Cllr Cotton and a final draft of refreshed *terms of reference* were shared for all to provide comments with the intention of a final sign off at the next forum meeting (August 2021). An interactive presentation update was provided by the Assistant Director of Public Health on the pending *Creating a Healthier City Strategy* that is being co-produced with stakeholders. This involved ranking inequality priorities and an opportunity for other considerations.

The *HealthNow Alliance* provided an overview of a peer research investigation into homelessness; 64 homeless people participated in the research and were supported with training. Working alongside key partners the findings have contributed to an action plan seeking to address issues identified as well as influencing local and national change through campaigns and training.

A brief update was provided on the Birmingham *Poverty Truth Commission -BPTC#2* (a citizen engagement approach to enable local experiences of poverty to be heard by the council & strategic partners). It involves recruitment of community commissioners (people with lived experience of poverty) speaking their truth and civic commissioners (those in positions of power and influence) to work together to influence decision and policy making with the aim to tackle poverty and prevent destitution. The project is currently recruiting citizens as community commissioners and work has started to recruit civic commissioners. The project

have commissioned a robust evaluation, which will be conducted by University of Wolverhampton and Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council, the work to create a framework for the evaluation has been initiated. There is an internal strategic oversight group for this project.

A brief update was also provided on *BLACHIR* (a collaboration between Birmingham and Lewisham councils to look in depth at how to tackle health inequalities in Black African and Black Caribbean communities). The review is made up of an academic and advisory boards who meet and discuss the findings and share insight. The insights and opportunities for action identified from the reviews completed so far (3 out of 9) will be further discussed through public engagement to verify, refine and prioritise them.

Regular updates will be provided to the forum on both *BPTC* and *BLACHIR* work.

1.3 Next Steps

- Creating fair employment and good work for all is the theme for the first CCWIF workshop scheduled for 2 September 2021. All forum members and relevant partners have been invited to attend with the latter being those that are able to provide expert contribution to this policy area. The outputs will shape the forum's agenda on 15 September 2021 and actions going forward.