

Hackney Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy - 2022/26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Who has created this strategy and why?

The Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board is a partnership that works together to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Hackney and reduce health inequalities. We have created this strategy, jointly with people who live and work in the borough, to set out our specific areas of focus between 2022 and 2026.

What is our aim?

Our aim is to improve health in Hackney, and reduce health inequalities - the avoidable and unfair differences in health between different groups and communities.

To achieve this, we have identified three priority areas for action: improving mental health, increasing social connection and supporting greater financial security. They will require a partnership effort over the next four years. This strategy will form part of our work - as it does not reflect everything we will do to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Hackney. Many other actions and activities will continue or start over this period.

Why do we need to take action on health inequalities?

Health and wellbeing can be influenced by many different things. As shown in the diagram below,



Adapted from Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991)

there is a relationship between a person and the factors that can impact their health. Every person's health will be influenced by different factors which may overlap. Everything from an individual's behaviour and choices, to the broader social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions will affect someone's health. Racism plays a role at multiple levels.

Across the country, we know that people experience significant health inequalities. This is also true for Hackney. Between 2003 and 2018, an estimated 4,000 premature deaths locally were attributed to socioeconomic inequality.

(Public Health Team, London Borough of Hackney).

How did we come up with this strategy?

We have a lot of information about health and wellbeing in Hackney, which has helped to inform this draft strategy. You can find out more about this in our health and wellbeing profile (our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) and our review of health needs in the local population.

These show that there are inequalities and things we need to improve, as well as work that's already happening on many issues.

In developing this strategy, we have engaged with many local people who live and work in Hackney. This insight, combined with the information we already held, has been invaluable in shaping this strategy.

What are we going to do?

The strategy sets out three broad areas for action, and a more detailed action plan will be developed in 2022. Our focus areas for partnership action over the next four years are:

improving mental health and preventing mental ill-health	increasing social connection	supporting greater financial security and reducing poverty
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For each of these we are going to take an approach which reduces health inequalities. We will do this by using the objectives set out in the Marmot Review *'Fair Society, Healthy Lives'* (2010), as a way to guide where action is needed. This involves looking at each issue from these perspectives, and asking how do we:

- Give every child the best start in life (often by recognising the role of families)
- Enable all children young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure healthy standard of living for all
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
- Ensure effective action is taken to address racism and other forms of discrimination.

Doing things differently: how will we work?

It's vital we make sure that we work differently to help us achieve these goals. We are going to take a community-centred approach. This involves:

- Strengthening our communities
- Creating, supporting and working with volunteer and peer roles
- Collaborations and partnerships: including at a neighbourhood level
- Accessing community resources.

Many partnerships will be crucial in this work. It is important to balance the efforts needed to create and support good health today with the need to transform and improve for the future. One way to do this includes working at a neighbourhood level across Hackney, which has already provided the foundation

for balancing today's pressures and future improvements and will continue as part of this strategy.

We also have defined ten cross-cutting areas of work to reduce health inequalities that have arisen from, or been made worse by, the Covid-19 pandemic and we will be reinforcing this work through this strategy. This is currently being led by the City and Hackney Health Inequalities Steering Group, who will continue to be involved.

Who is going to be involved?

The Health and Wellbeing Board brings together people from:

- The local NHS and care services
- Hackney Council
- the voluntary and community sector
- Healthwatch
- Organisations in the borough whose work might influence health and wellbeing such as housing, education, community safety, employment and the built environment.

We all have roles and responsibilities in improving health and reducing health inequalities, and we want this strategy to be developed and actioned jointly, alongside people who live and work in Hackney.

Although much of the Board's work goes beyond Hackney (such as in partnership with the City of London, or others in North East London), each Health and Wellbeing Board has a responsibility to develop and deliver a joint health and wellbeing strategy, and so this strategy just focuses on Hackney.

What happens now?

We want to find out if people who live and work in Hackney support this strategy, and to ask for their suggestions about how it can be turned into action. The consultation is open between November 2021 and February 2022 <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

The consultation feedback will be used to produce a final strategy, which if approved by the Board in March 2022, will then be published. An action plan - where we set out specific actions and how we will measure our progress - will be developed and published in the summer of 2022.