



Briefing Report No: **101/2010**

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **“Closing the Gap” Inequalities Action Plan and Progress Update**

Wards Affected: **Primarily Tormohun, Roundham with Hyde and Ellacombe. Other wards are also being targeted with regards specific actions where areas of deprivation are highest within those wards. We are also targeting population groups bay-wide where appropriate.**

To: **Health Scrutiny Board** On: **8 April 2010**

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1. Key points and Summary

- 1.1 Closing the Gap is a project containing details of activity to tackle inequalities within Torbay including health, social and economic deprivation.
- 1.2 Closing the Gap will seek to address inequalities and deprivation by adopting a first and most approach, acting with citizen and client groups or geographical areas and wards most in need, or most deprived first.
- 1.3 Closing the Gap action plan is appended for your review. It is a living document and certain actions have yet to be identified.
- 1.4 Evidence of work already undertaken within the Hele Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder project and other positive outcomes of the Comprehensive Area Assessment are discussed.

2. Introduction

2.1 This report details actions currently undertaken and future actions to address aspects of deprivation within Torbay. This work is being managed and reviewed under the heading of “Closing the Gap” which sets out to improve not only health inequalities, but also wider social and economic deprivation. This not only improves our areas of deprivation in a holistic manner to the benefit of the communities and citizens of Torbay but also, evidence from the Marmot Review and other publications have demonstrated that improvement in social and economic deprivation have direct links to improvement in health and wellbeing, thus providing additional ways and means to reduce health inequalities.

2.2 Closing the Gap sets out to tackle inequalities in our communities and wards and adopts a “first and most” approach to targeting deprivation. Therefore the primary targets for many inequalities are Roundham with Hyde, Tormohun and Ellacombe as three areas

in the bay with the highest multiple index of deprivation (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008). The concept of Closing the Gap is to address the inequalities in the areas of most deprivation first, to begin to narrow the gap between wards and therefore reduce the inequality of life within different wards within Torbay. Other areas are also being targeted more specifically, such as Queen Elizabeth Drive in Paignton where plans are currently being drawn up to target welfare benefit uptake to ensure citizens living on Queen Elizabeth Drive are aware of their entitlement and claim it, thus beginning to improve upon their individual financial situation and also to ensure equity in uptake of benefits for eligible individuals across Torbay. The principle of “first and most” is not to exclude any ward, but simply to start work in the most deprived areas and then move on into other wards as necessary to reduce inequalities and target deprivation. A further example is the Intensive Health Visitor Programme which has adopted the first and most approach. However, as deprivation is measured as a population average, individuals coming forward for this service, have not been discriminated against based upon where they live, but looked at on an individual case by case basis where the individual themselves may be living in poverty but who could be living in an area perceived not to be deprived. First and most in this case therefore ensures all who are in need of this service can access it Baywide on a first and most in need basis.

2.3 The Closing the Gap Action Plan is included for review. The action plan details progress on our interventions to date within individual areas of activity and also the future actions identified to narrow the gap even further. The Action Plan is still currently being compiled and attached is the latest version. **Where detail is lacking from the action plan to date, we are currently working to identify measurements or actions to target these areas.** The action plan will be a living document and will be subject to regular amendments and additions in order to continually drive the project forward and reduce inequalities in Torbay. The action plan will be monitored via Closing the Gap Project Board, the Transformation Programme Board and overall, by report to the TSP Executive.

2.4 Closing the Gap draws on four key areas to identify areas of inequality for action:

- i) Actions to address inequalities as identified by Specialists and Senior Management within that specialist area, such as existing national and performance related indicators.
- ii) Marmot Review and the new Child Poverty Act 2010
- iii) Areas of improvement identified within the Comprehensive Area Assessment
- iv) Acts and legislation supporting community engagement

2.5 Torbay’s recent Comprehensive Area Assessment indicated evidenced areas of good work to date within Torbay, including improvement in schools in overall examination results, collaborative work between the Police and Council to reduce crime and the recent deployment of the Hele Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder project (pilot).

Debbie Stark
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Closing the Gap Project Manager

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Closing the Gap Action Plan
- Appendix 2 Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Marmot Review Executive Summary
- Appendix 3 Report to Commissioning Officers Group: Marmot Review Debbie Stark
- Appendix 4 Hele Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder: Extended Project Brief
- Appendix 5 Comprehensive Area Assessment

Documents available in members' rooms

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008
Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Marmot Review

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Marmot Review
Report to Commissioning Officers Group: Marmot Review Debbie Stark
Closing the Gap Action Plan
Comprehensive Area Assessment
Hele Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder: Extended Project Brief