

1. Background and Scope of the Task and Finish Group

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group met over a series of meetings review and discuss the themes identified within the Marmot Report 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives'. Each meeting was tailored to focus on a specific them with a final report and all the Board's recommendations being captured in one report. The themes identified in the Marmot report and explored at meetings were:

- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
- Give every child the best start in life
- Enable children and young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create fair employment and good work for all (inclusive growth and good work for all)
- Ensure a healthy standard of living
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities

At their first meeting Members were advised that in November 2008, Professor Sir Michael Marmot was asked by the Secretary of State for Health to chair an independent review to propose the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England from 2010. The strategy would include policies and interventions that address the social determinants of health inequalities. Marmot's Review had four tasks:

- 'Identify, for the health equalities challenge, facing England, the evidence most relevant to underpinning future policy and action;
- Show how this evidence could be translate into practice;
- Advise on possible objectives and measures, building on the experience of the current PSA target on infant mortality and life expectancy; and
- Publish a report of the Review's work that will contribute to the development of a post-2010 health inequalities strategy'.

The Task and Finish Group sought to identify the necessary work which needed to be undertaken to support residents and protect them from falling into poverty; identify the immediate support required for those residents who may be in poverty; and identify the support required for residents to stay out of poverty.

At each meeting, Members received a presentation and heard from Directors and/or Senior Managers on how the Council was addressing each theme to promote equality and the measures needed to be implemented to meet relevant requirements. The meetings attracted members of the public to participate and partner organisations, such as the Community Development Trust, were also invited to contribute.

At the conclusion of each meeting members prepared a set of outcomes which would be included in their final report. The recommendations are set out in (2) below.

Prior to finalising their findings, members of the Board took into consideration the recent pandemic Covid-19 and the impact on the population, particularly those living in Torbay. The Board questioned whether the statistics presented at each meeting were still applicable and whether the pandemic had created greater inequalities or had the issues raised been magnified as a result.

With regard to 'Creating Fair Employment and Good Work for All' the Board discussed the requirements of employees having to work from home more now and the need for employers to adapt how they operate their businesses. The Board questioned whether working from home would be a positive step for young people, especially those who migrate from the area. Further discussions with the Director of Economic Strategy confirmed that investigation into why residents in the 39-45 age bracket move away would be undertaken by online surveys, focus groups, data and intelligence available to the TDA and would complement any Census data available. The Director of Economic Strategy further advised that the impact of Covid-19 also saw a shift in the economy and how people shop, as one example. It was believed there had been economic repositioning and the private and public sector needed to work together to understand the shift and the requirements of the workforce.

2. Outcomes

Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

This Council will take steps to:

- (i) ensure that the Housing Strategy supports ill health prevention; and
- (ii) ensure prevention treatment programmes are funded effectively to safeguard and reinforce their current positive work, in particular addressing addictive behaviours which can lead to poor mental wellbeing.

Give Every Child the Best Start in Life

This Council will take steps to:

- (i) implement the Torbay Promise and ensure it is embedded in the budget setting process;
- (ii) further integrate early help and 0–19 services; and
- (iii) promote the Home Learning Campaign – Chat Play Read;

Enable Children and Young People/Adults to Maximise Their Capabilities & Have Control Over Their Lives

This Council will take steps to:

- (i) promote the need for independent advice in accordance with the GATSBY standards to all young people;
- (ii) create a post 16 strategy within the Local Area;
- (iii) form a stronger connection between the business community and local education board;
- (iv) support the development of T Level Courses at South Devon College;
- (v) help to secure more young people with an Education Health and Care Plan (ECHP) access to work; and
- (vi) encourage Members and businesses to support holiday/wrap around care schemes.

Under this theme the Panel also agreed that:

- the Head Teacher of Coombe Pafford School would be invited to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to explain how the School are promoting young people with ECHPs into work
- members of the Board would attend “Meet members of the Senior Leadership Team at South Devon College.

Further, the Board had reservations about the Marmot recommendation for schools to extend their roles in supporting families, in particular the impact on pastoral teams and ensuring schools seek the relevant professional support.

Creating Fair Employment and Good Work for All

This Council will take steps to:

- (i) promote and support the Apprenticeship Strategy and the Apprenticeship Fair;
- (iii) promote positive working relationships between TDA and the Council's Planning Department and to support TDA in exploring opportunities to ensure employment space in Torbay is viable; and
- (iv) work with TDA to undertake further research on the migration of the 39 to 45 age group who move away from Torbay.

Under this theme the Panel also supported the drafting of the revised Economic Strategy and asked that it be presented to a future Board meeting before submitted to Council for approval. As part of the Strategy revamp the Board proposed that the local MP reviewed the draft to ensure it fitted with Government aspirations.

Ensure a Healthy Standard of Living

In relation to housing, this Council will take steps to:

- (i) consider how we can improve our advocacy role as a result of the work being done to understand what enables and deters people from coming forward with their housing issues;
- (ii) consider options to address poor quality housing in specific and defined areas. To include:
 - i. A selected licensing scheme
 - ii. A housing company owned and managed by the council

- (iii) ensure the new Climate Change Officer addresses energy efficiency issues in housing under their remit.

In relation to debt, this Council will take steps to:

- (iv) re-design support services to better enable individual needs to be met in a holistic (instead of silo-ed) way;
- (iv) consider a Home and Money Hub – and link to on-going discussions in relation to Health and Wellbeing Hubs with volunteers and third sector organisations as potential providers; and
- (v) provide information so that front-line health and social care staff can understand needs and service options around housing and financial advice.

Creating and Developing Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities

This Council will take steps to support independent community initiatives through:

- (i) working with the Community Development Trust and the Community Builders to enable community action;
- (ii) working with partners to develop and implement a volunteer strategy for Torbay;
- (iii) reviewing Torbay Council offers of community funding opportunities e.g. Community Enablement Fund and Crowdfunding;
- (iv) implementing Ward Ambassadors to support ward members; and
- (v) reviewing Council policy to promote volunteering by officers.

3. Recommendation

That the Cabinet approve the outcomes identified in this report and that the Council continues to work with the partner organisations and the community/voluntary sector to reduce health inequalities within Torbay.