

# North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report Date: 8 July 2021

Title: Tackling Inequalities  
in Health and the Impacts  
of COVID-19

**Report from :** Cabinet Member for Public Health and Well Being

**Report Author:** Director of Public Health and Assistant Chief Executive (Tel : 0191 643 2104 and 0191 643 5724)

**Relevant Partnership Board:**

## 1. Purpose:

This report sets out the proposed approach to tackle inequalities in health and wider socio-economic factors via a new Joint Health and Well Being Strategy for North Tyneside. This is in the context of addressing the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the borough.

## 2. Recommendation(s):

The Board is recommended to:-

- agree the approach to develop a new Joint Health and Well Being Strategy to tackle health and wider socio-economic inequalities as set out in paragraph 4.6 of this report
- agree to nominate representatives from each organisation represented on the Health and Well Being Board to be on a cross-sector working group to take forward the work as outlined in paragraph 4.6 of this report

## 3. Policy Framework

This item relates to all of the current Joint Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-23.

## 4. Information:

### Background

- 4.1 The current Joint Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-23 was previously agreed by the Health and Well Being Board.
- 4.2 It is now appropriate to develop a new Strategy in the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the borough both at an individual resident and community level.

This report sets out the proposed approach to be undertaken to do this in partnership with a range of stakeholders between now and November 2021 when it is proposed that the Health and Well Being Board will approve the new Strategy.

### The Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 4.3 Initial work has been undertaken both within the local authority and across the NHS to assess the ongoing impacts of the pandemic across the borough. This is from both a direct and indirect impact point of view – direct in relation to the burden of disease and mortality and indirect from the response to the pandemic and the control measures that have been put in place. In common with other places across the country, the impacts have not been felt equally across communities with the greatest impacts falling on the least privileged. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were already signs that the health of the people in North Tyneside was falling behind the rest of the country. Our Joint Strategic Needs Analysis shows a lower life expectancy and healthy life expectancy and slower improvements when compared to the figures for England as a whole. In addition, the Marmot Review 10 Years on, published in February 2020, highlighted that not enough progress had been made over the past decade to address unjust and avoidable differences in people’s health and well being across the country. The COVID-19 pandemic and the wider governmental and societal response have further exposed the inequalities in North Tyneside.
- 4.4 In terms of direct impacts the first confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in North Tyneside was recorded on 8 March 2021. Up to 19 June 2021, a total of 13,8620 positive cases have been recorded. More females than males have tested positive for COVID-19 and more positive cases have been found in the 20-49 age group followed by those aged 50-69. 634 people were admitted to hospital (to 13 June). Sadly 479 people have died with COVID-19 (to 4 June).
- 4.5 The response to the pandemic, including the demand upon NHS and social care services together with measures taken to control the spread of coronavirus (including the social distancing and lockdown measures, school closures and the cancellation or delay of routine healthcare) have had wide ranging indirect impacts including education, household incomes, job security and social contact. The control measures have therefore had their own important consequences for people’s lives, in addition to the direct impacts of the disease itself on health and wellbeing.

### Proposed Approach

- 4.6 It is proposed to undertake the work in the following phases
- **Phase 1 : Evidence and Impact Analysis - by August 2021**  
  
Working through a cross-sector working group chaired by the Director of Public Health and the Assistant Chief Executive of the Council, work to complete the impact analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic will be undertaken to provide a clear evidence base for strategy development and decision taking. This piece of work will inform and underpin the refresh of the JSNA.
  - **Phase 2 : Policy Development - by end September 2021**  
  
Working through the same cross-sector working group, work will be taken forward to develop policy priorities for the proposed new Joint Health and Well Being

Strategy. These priorities will be designed to address the issues identified in the impact analysis and will link to all relevant strategic policy frameworks including the refreshed Our North Tyneside Council Plan (due to be agreed by Council on 23 September 2021). This will include consideration by the Health and Well Being Board at its meeting on 16 September

- **Phase 3 : Consultation and Engagement – by end October 2021**

It is proposed to carry out consultation and engagement on the policy priorities with all key stakeholders throughout October 2021 including via the annual State of the Area Event hosted by the local authority; arrangements via Healthwatch and the CCG's patient forum

- **Phase 4 : Strategy Approval – by end November 2021**

The impact analysis and policy priorities will be used to shape a refreshed Joint Health and Well Being strategy to be considered for approval by the Health and Well Being Board at its meeting on 11 November

**5. Decision options:**

The Board is recommended to approve the approach as set out in paragraph 4.3 above.

**6. Reasons for recommended option:**

Taking forward the development of a new Joint Health and Well Being Strategy as per the approach outlined in paragraph 4.3 above will ensure that the work of the Health and Well Being Board and its composite member organisations will be aligned with the key impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across the borough.

**7. Appendices:**

Current Joint Health and Well Being Strategy for North Tyneside 2013-23.

**8. Contact officers:**

Wendy Burke, Director of Public Health (0191 643 2104)  
Jackie Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive, North Tyneside Council (0191 643 5724)

**9. Background information:**

The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the author:-

Current Joint Health and Well Being Strategy for North Tyneside 2013-23

## **COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **10 Finance and other resources**

Any financial implications arising from the delivery of priorities in the new Health and Well Being Strategy will be met from existing budgets

### **11 Legal**

The Council is required, under section 116A of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended) to prepare a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Borough, alongside the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment it must also prepare. The statutory guidance, from the Department of Health, which accompanies this duty notes that *“JSNAs and JHWSs are continuous processes ...”* and *“Health and wellbeing boards will need to decide for themselves when to update or refresh JSNAs and JHWSs ...”*. Consequently, this proposed approach is within the scope of the powers of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **12 Consultation/community engagement**

Internal consultation has been undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Well Being. The approach has also been discussed with the Health and Well Being Board Executive on 22 June 2021.

### **13 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

### **14 Equalities and diversity**

In undertaking the process for the new Joint Health and Well Being Strategy, the aim will be at all times to secure compliance with responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and in particular the Public Sector Equality Duty under that Act. An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on the engagement approach. The aim will be to remove or minimise any disadvantage for people wishing to take part in the engagement activity. Direct contact will be made with groups representing people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 to encourage participation and provide engagement in a manner that will meet their needs.

### **15 Risk management**

Relevant risks have been identified regarding this report, they are currently held on the Authority’s corporate, strategic and Covid-19 specific risk registers, they are being reviewed and managed as part of the Authority’s normal risk management process.

### **16 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

**SIGN OFF**

Chair/Deputy Chair of the Board

X

Director of Public Health

X

Director of Children's and Adult Services

X

Director of Healthwatch North Tyneside

X

CCG Chief Officer

X

Chief Finance Officer

X

Head of Law & Governance

X