

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SCOPING PAPER FOR HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND GP SURGERIES

Members of working group: Cllrs Wilson, Patrinos, Bushell, Bulled, Jones and Spear
Date: 6.10.24

1 Scope

A brief description of the scope of the work to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved. Also, for clarity identify areas that are outside the scope

- Both in our ward work and from studying the 2023 Local Area Insights Reports for North Devon, as councillors we are acutely aware of health inequalities that exist in our area. The main areas affected are Ilfracombe and parts of South Molton and Barnstaple. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 confirms this and less clearly, shows considerable pockets of rural health inequality.
- By health inequalities we mean the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical health. (Index of Multiple Deprivation) definition)
- We are also aware that in some areas of North Devon, GP surgeries are at risk of closure. This exacerbates barriers to accessing health care.
- We are aware that mental health is also included in health inequalities studies but for the purposes of this Policy Committee brief we will concentrate on physical health, and leave mental health for perhaps a future study owing to the need to keep the brief tightly focussed.
- The health of a population can influence many other factors such as education attainment, employment and the well-being of our communities. Health inequalities can have deep and far-reaching negative consequences for our residents.
- By speaking to experts we aim to gain a deeper understanding of health inequalities in North Devon – the causes, the geographical spread, and the trajectory, and from this look at where North Devon Council, where possible, can help to mitigate, or provide support in reducing these inequalities.

2 Information requirements

List below the initial information that is expected to be needed for the review

- The data needed for the review relies largely on the 2 studies cited above – the Local Area Insights Report for North Devon 2023, which has subsections for South Molton, Barnstaple and Ilfracombe. This report is compiled from open data made available by organisations such as the ONS, Public Health England and the DWP. It focuses on 8 themes, one of which is health.
- the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ranks every small area of the UK using 7 domains including Health Deprivation and Disability. But the data used to create it is now between 7 and 24 years old.

3 Witnesses and support

List below any external organisations, officers, & others required to provide evidence and support for the review

- Representatives from
- Shelter -
- Age Concern
- NHS – public health officer
- Rural GP practice – South Molton (Cllr Bushell has a contact to share)
- **Andrea** Beacham, Senior Programme. Manager for Health Inequalities, Royal. **Devon** University Healthcare Trust.
- The Pickwell Foundation
- Primary/Secondary schools health practitioners

4 Quantified benefits expected

The benefits you expect, expressed in measurable terms

See note below – unclear how we can quantify the outcomes of this with data.

One outcome could be that NDC have or support a public information campaign, in which case the comms produced by NDC could be measured.

It is possible that there might be suggestions for some NDC services that impact health.

5 Key risks

The key risks to the review e.g. why the work might not be completed within the proposed timescales, or why it might not produce the benefits

- The workload of the Policy Committee could pose a risk to the completion of a full review
- There could be a low uptake from the experts invited
- Measurable (quantifiable) benefits might not be evidenced until new data sets are produced, something outside of NDCs control

6 Costs

Work is undertaken within existing resources and therefore no additional costs are expected, but there might be an exception

- No additional costs are anticipated beyond the cost of hiring the meeting room.

7 Timescales

A summary of the key dates and a target date for completion

- November 2024?