

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 16 March 2020



WIDENING INEQUALITIES

Plymouth City Council notes with sadness the findings of the “10 Years On Review” by Sir Michael Marmot which confirms the widening of health inequalities in the UK, and the confirmation that government policies focussing on the healthcare system and individual behaviour change approaches have not been hugely effective at reducing these inequalities. As a result, life expectancy in the UK has been stalling.

Plymouth City Council further notes the need to tackle the wider, social determinants of health in order to address these inequalities and improve health for everyone, which includes looking at the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live work and age. Tackling these issues must also include looking at the impact of austerity, particularly on local government funding which bears the burden of funding action to tackle these issues, and how this affected child poverty, the housing crisis, rising levels of homelessness and increased usage of food banks.

Plymouth City Council expresses its concern that, of the 317 local authority districts in England, Plymouth ranks 64th most deprived when looking at the average score summary measure, having moved from 69th since 2015.

Plymouth City Council thanks the Director for Public Health for setting out the national issues around health and social inequalities nationally in her Annual Report, and for focussing our minds on how we can begin to address these issues locally. It also thanks our hard-working staff across the council for their tireless efforts to improve people’s lives where they are facing social issues such as the ones outlined above.

Plymouth City Council therefore resolves to:

- Assess the local actions being taken on the social determinants of health and how these actions will improve the wellbeing of Plymouth residents, particularly in key social areas such as Public Health, Early Years, Education, Housing and Communities;
- Request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees look at these actions and consider what more can be done to tackle health inequalities and report these considerations back to the first appropriate Cabinet meeting;
- Look to create an action plan, building on the good work already being done by this authority, which ties together these actions;
- Further shares this action plan with the first appropriate Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that all partners play their part in improving outcomes for our residents.

- In the light of the government's proposals to introduce "fairer funding" the Council invites the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine the consequences on council budgets of its introduction and its implications for maintaining and improving services to vulnerable people.
- Requests that the Leader writes to the Plymouth's MPs, Luke Pollard, Johnny Mercer and Gary Streeter requesting they vote against any proposal to introduce "fairer funding" unless it can be shown that it benefits Plymouth.

Proposed by: Cllr Kate Taylor

Signature "By Email"

On 05 March 2020

Seconded by: Cllr Sue McDonald

Signature "By Email"

On 05 March 2020