

**Responding to the final report of York Fairness Commission:
A better York for everyone**

1. Introduction

The independent body, York Fairness Commission was set up in July 2011 as part of Cabinet's commitment to tackle poverty and inequality in York.

The York Fairness Commission published their final report *A better York for everyone* on September 27th. The report proposes 10 Fairness Principles, makes 7 headline recommendations and commends more than 100 Ideas for Action to be assessed and progressed.

Poverty and health inequalities have significant impacts on health and wellbeing. Reducing health inequalities is one of the five priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is particularly relevant to the work of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.

Annex A is a report taken to the Cabinet on 6 November entitled "Responding to the Final Report of the Fairness Commission". It summarises the key findings from the commission's final report. The following Fairness Commission reports can be found on the Fairness Commission website, www.yorkfairnesscommission.org.uk

- A better York for everyone: Findings and Recommendations
- A better York for everyone: Ideas for Action
- A better York for everyone: Report Summary

2. Implementing the Fairness Commission Principles and Recommendations

The Fairness Commission recommendations include a number of principles which impact on a number of decisions relating to health and wellbeing provision and commissioning (see Annex A). A number of these principles are already embedded in the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board have already signalled their commitment to several. These include:

- Exploring the adoption of the living wage
- An increased focus on prevention
- Targeting investment and resource to where they are most needed
- Supporting the financial inclusion strategy, volunteering and supported employment programmes.

The health and wellbeing partnerships reporting to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will also be expected to embed these principles within their delivery plans and decision making.

The headline recommendations which are most relevant to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board are:

Recommendation E: Make far greater use of early intervention, preventative measures and community based care to support and promote health, independent living and inclusion.

This recommendation is central to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is reflected in its priorities, principles and actions. Recommendation E is also aligned with the key issues identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 (JSNA). It is therefore proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board will be the main vehicle to deliver Recommendation E, via the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the health and wellbeing partnership boards sitting below it. The Without Walls partnership will hold overall responsibility for the delivery of the Fairness Commission principles and recommendations.

Recommendation F: Ensure childcare, the learning environment and education help to tackle inequalities.

‘Enabling all children and young people to have the best start in life’ is one of the five priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The YorOK Board which reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for delivering this priority. The new Children and Young People’s Plan, ‘Dream Again’, was launched in October. Dream Again aims to build on work over the past three years to provide early preventative services and build resilience for children and young people and, crucially, details how we will achieve these ambitions and measure its success. Its principles and priorities are featured within the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will also be interested in a number of other Fairness Commission recommendations, such as:

Recommendation A: Make York a Living Wage City and inspire Yorkshire to become a Living Wage Region.

Exploring the adoption of the living wage is an action in the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy, to help alleviate poverty and reduce health inequalities.

Recommendation D: Urgently address the city's housing and accommodation needs to improve availability and affordability for all, and to support sustainable economic growth, backed by a long term strategic framework.

The draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognises the significant impact housing has on health and wellbeing, and one of its actions is to support the housing strategy to living standards across the city.

3. Council Plan

The proposals in this paper have particular relevance to the 'Building Strong Communities' and 'Protecting Vulnerable People' strands of the council plan.

4. Implications

- **Financial**

The implementation of the health and wellbeing strategy will impact on service planning, budgets and commissioning decisions. The health and wellbeing board will not take specific decisions on services or commissioning, however they will set the strategic direction for health and wellbeing services over the next three years.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

No HR implications

- **Equalities**

The implementation of the health and wellbeing strategy may well affect access to service provision. Decisions about accessing specific services will not be taken at the board. Addressing health inequality and targeting more resource towards the greatest need should positively impact on equalities. To ensure that York's Health and Wellbeing Strategy does not have a negative effect on equalities a community impact assessment will be carried out before the strategy is signed off in April 2013.

- **Legal**

No legal implications

- **Crime and Disorder**

No crime and disorder implications

- **Information Technology (IT)**

No IT implications

- **Property**

No Property implications

- **Other**

5. Risk Management

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this paper.

6. Recommendations

The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- A. Review the Fairness Commission principles and recommendations.
- B. Confirm they, via the four health and wellbeing partnership boards, will be the delivery vehicle for Recommendations E and F.
- C. Agree that they will work alongside other partnerships across the city, including Without Walls, to support the implementation of other recommendations relevant to their remit.

Reason: To ensure that the findings from the Fairness Commission final report are delivered and influence local policy and practice.

7. Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**

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8. Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

9. Attachments

Annex A - Report for Council Cabinet on 6 November 'Responding to the Final Report of the Fairness Commission'