

Ful Council 10th February 2021

Motion to Council regarding health inequalities in Hastings

For further information follow the link here

<https://hastings.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=168&MIId=4136>

This Council continues to express its gratitude for the extraordinary effort undertaken by many in our Borough during the pandemic crisis that in turn has created a force for good. We are all proud of the response of our Council, our medical professionals, key workers, our partners and the wider community effort across the Borough of Hastings and St. Leonards.

This Council believes that while the overwhelming majority of residents are playing their part in observing COVID regulations and a large number have taken on community volunteering roles, we are not 'all in this together'. When the pandemic is over the most vulnerable groups will still be vulnerable - economically, socially, academically and in their health and wellbeing outcomes. A resident living in one street will still be more likely to die 14 years earlier than a resident in the adjoining neighbourhood. We cannot accept this.

We are a council committed to narrowing the health gap. We are also a Council aware of the limits placed upon us. Therefore, whilst this Council welcomes the work already undertaken by ESCC Director of Public Health, before and during the pandemic, we remain acutely aware of the responsibility a phalanx of public bodies has for improving the health outcomes for our residents over the next decade. We trust the result of this Motion will be to shine a spotlight beyond the well-rehearsed statistical recognition of health-inequality and onto the process by which these public bodies are forming and then acting upon a strategy to eradicate health-inequality from our Borough.

This motion is a challenge for all of us and especially those organisations whose very existence is predicated on improving the health and life-chances of our residents to act particular where there has been longstanding identified need.

The story of the primary care centre in the Ore Valley is a clear example of how desperate need does not lead to the prompt delivery of the required services, on time, to transform the health of our residents in Baird ward.

This motion calls on NHS England to deliver this primary care centre as a matter of necessity and as a clear signal of a new desire, the force for good extracted from the trauma of pandemic, to eradicate health inequality in our Borough by 2029.

This Council resolves to:

1. Lobby NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health to deliver on the primary health care centre for the Ore Valley;
2. Encourage formal and informal partnerships to contribute positively to reducing health inequality across the borough;
3. Promote the need for a unifying strategic plan to eradicate severe health inequality from our Borough by 2029;
4. Promote our Corporate Plan, our post-Covid recovery work and all other opportunities and agency as they become available to us as a means to this end;

5. Request a twice-yearly report on the progress of measures, taken by organisations operating within the Borough, to reduce health-inequality using national, county and local profiles from the Director of Public Health
6. Instigate with partners specific locality measures with outcomes that raise the life chances of particular vulnerable groups or neighbourhoods;
7. Consider the impact on public health and inequality of our own decision-making, for example within the draft local plan;
8. Invite our MP to take up the mantle of reducing health inequality in the most deprived wards she represents.