

# HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

## Coventry: a Marmot City

### Background

The Department of Health (DH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) both commissioned reports by the Marmot team. Both reports identified the key factors that lead to health inequalities across the course people's lives and across communities.

Coventry has now been formally invited by the Department of Health to be one of the 7 UK upper tier Authorities in the UK Marmot Network.

The other areas in the network are;

- Newcastle City Council
- Gateshead
- Lancashire County Council
- Stoke City Council
- Bristol City Council
- Somerset County Council

In addition we will be able to link to a broader European Network that includes Italy, Scandinavia etc.

The English partnership will focus on accelerated action on the wider causes of ill health also known as the social determinants of health.

The Lead Member for Health, Councillor Ann Lucas and the Joint Director of Public Health, Dr Jane Moore participated on behalf of the City Council at the Network which was launched by Professor Sir Michael Marmot via a web conference on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**.

### Why do inequalities matter in Coventry?

The Marmot Review into the impact of inequalities in the UK ('Fairer Society Healthy Lives') identified the following;

UK	Coventry
Health inequalities are <b>not</b> inevitable or immutable	We can change these in Coventry
Health inequalities result from social inequalities - 'causes of the causes' – the social determinants	Variation is strongly linked with deprivation
Address the social gradient in health through 'proportionate universalism'	We need to improve the health outcomes of all of the Coventry population where it is below the national best.
Life course approach	Focus is on early years to older people
Address processes of exclusion	Those with the greatest need are least likely to get the care and support.
Intergenerational focus	Recognizes that these inequalities are passed on to the next generation
Develop strategies based on assets, resilience, capabilities and strengths.	We need to focus and build on assets and strengths not deficits.

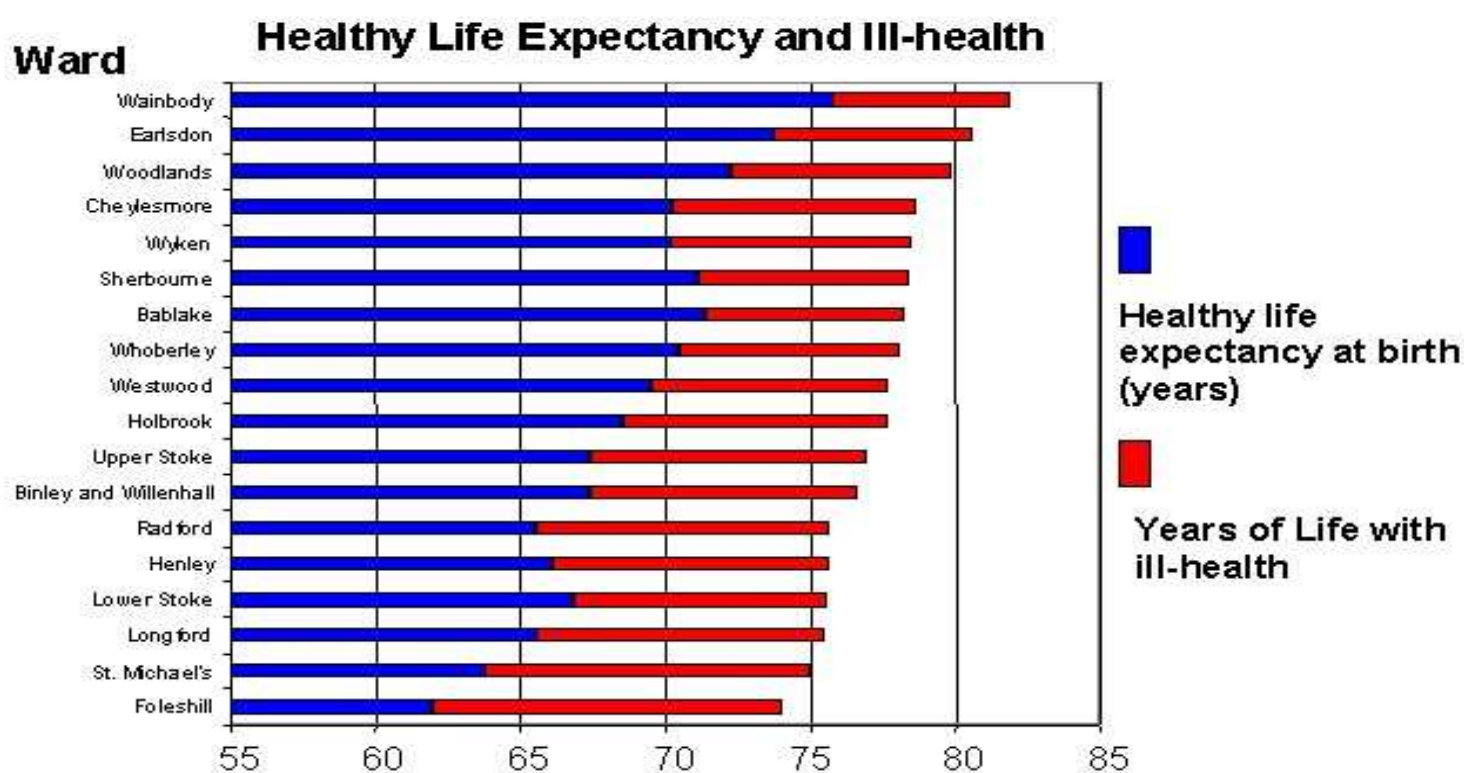
## Our Vision for Coventry

Our vision, as stated in our draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) is that we want to improve the health of all people living in Coventry, so that it matches the best in England.

We want to increase life expectancy and reduce the numbers of years where people suffer poor health either through disability or a long term chronic illness.

There is significant variation in health outcomes in the city. The factors that have the biggest impact on these variations between communities include the following areas; education, employment, housing, transport etc. As a city we do have the ability to influence these factors.

The reasons why we need to look at both life expectancy and the consequences of long term ill in health in Coventry are clearly shown in the figure below.



## What does being a Marmot City and being in Network mean for Coventry?

The Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board have already acknowledged the significance of these inequalities and through its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the draft Joint and Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) its commitment to reduce them.

Being part of the Marmot Network will provide us with access to the international expertise of the Marmot Team based at University College London (UCL). Please see Appendix A for the full team

They will support the following activities;

- Programme to be worked up with Coventry City Council
- Bespoke consultancy for Coventry

- Face to face Consultation
- Conferences and Workshop Facilitation.
- Partnership Network Meetings.
- Community of Practice Website.

We will be able to use their expertise and resources in supporting us in our plans for accelerated action on the social determinants of health in the city.

Specifically we will have 12 days consultancy time over the next 2 years to use as we consider appropriate.

As part of the 7 other areas there will be opportunities to share learning and potentially identify areas for joint working. E.g. commission research on the impact of the economic downturn on health and wellbeing.

### **How will we to contribute to the Marmot network?**

As a formal partner of the network we will commit to the following;

- Agreement to collaborate in partnership with the Marmot Team and other LA partners in the network.
- Agree a written specification between the Local Authority and the Marmot as to how we intend to use them over the next 2 years.
- Demonstrate political and executive leadership to support this work.
- Deliver accelerated action on the Social Determinants of Health (SDH) as outlined in our specification and plans.
- Provide the capacity and capability to deliver asset based approaches; agreeing and identifying resources to support this work.
- To undertake a case study and disseminate as an exemplar Authority

We already have activities underway that enable us to deliver on these commitments e.g. work on mental health and wellbeing and 2 community asset based pilots.

### **How will we maximise the benefit of being a Marmot City?**

The return of Public Health to the Local Authority provides the opportunity to enhance Coventry City Council's role in promoting and protecting the population's health and wellbeing and addressing some of the wider social determinants of health. This will have an impact across every aspect of the Council's work; housing, education, welfare reform, unemployment etc.

### **What is the role of Health and Wellbeing Board in this?**

The Health and Wellbeing Board will provide the local system leadership and oversight required through the delivery of its JHWS to support the work on accelerated action on the social determinants of health.

All partners will have a key role to play in supporting this initiative across a broad number of areas. These will include a variety of approaches from involvement and engagement in their communities, through to strategic decision making across a number of key issues.

### **Summary**

Being part of the Marmot Network provides Coventry with a real opportunity to accelerate action on the wider social determinants of health. There are a number of other opportunities presenting themselves that will enhance our ability to make a real impact.

Firstly, the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board have the lead responsibility for ensuring the delivery of health improvement across the key stakeholders. Crucially, this ties in all key partners to deliver this agenda. It will provide impetus to the JHWS to identify early wins for the partnership across the following; early years, older people, communities, variation and outcomes.

Secondly, the Local Authority takes on the lead role for improving health and wellbeing from 2013. This will require the City Council's capability to improve health through its core roles in areas such as, planning, transport, education, housing etc.

Finally, this coincides with the return of the Public Health function and resources moving back to the Local Authority in April 2013. Therefore, we have the opportunity to work with experts to release the health potential in activities and developments that the City is already undertaking.

In the long term it will add life to years and years to life. This will take time; we need to be bold. It will be important to understand how we are making progress, by selecting the appropriate indicators.

In order to make the most of this opportunity and fulfil the huge potential this initiative has in terms of improving the health and life chances of the people of Coventry, local partner support and commitment is key to the success of this initiative.

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board endorse Coventry's participation in the Marmot UK and European Network.
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board support a media launch of this initiative in the city in December 2012 that would coincide with the Health and Well Being Strategy being finalised by the HWB Board.
3. That all Health and Wellbeing Board members support this initiative within their organisations and across all wider partnerships in the city.
4. That the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board will oversee and assure this initiative regarding outcomes.

## The Marmot Team

### Director Professor Sir Michael Marmot

- **Mike Grady** – ex Chief Officer local government and local NHS
- **Jessica Allen** – health policy led Marmot Review team and implementation
- **Peter Goldblatt** – ex chief medical statistician
- **Angela Donkin** – expert early years and employment
- **Ruth Bell** - CSDH and global implementation
- **Support team** - Reuben Balfour, Luke Beswick and Matilda Allen