

Health and Wellbeing Board

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Medway Marmot Place Partnership Update

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Summary

Medway declared its ambition to become a Marmot Place in April 2025. This report provides a summary of the progress to date and a draft set of recommendations from the Institute of Health Equity who have been commissioned to support Medway to achieve its ambitions to reduce health inequalities.

The Medway Marmot Place is not just a Medway Council initiative. In order to achieve the ambition of halving health inequalities over the next ten years, action will need to be taken by all public, private, voluntary, and academic sector partners.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the report from the Institute of Health Equity regarding the progress of the Medway Marmot Place Partnership Update.
- 1.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to comment on the draft recommendations put forward by the Institute of Health of Equity.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1 Since 1 April 2013, local authorities have been responsible for improving the health of their local population and for public health services.
- 2.2 A key purpose of the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board is to provide collective leadership to improve health and well-being across the local authority area, enable shared decision-making and ownership of decisions in an open and transparent way and address health inequalities by ensuring quality, consistency and comprehensive health
- 2.3 A Marmot Place recognises that health and health inequalities are mostly shaped by the social determinants of health: the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and takes action to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

3. Background

- 3.1 In April 2025, the Medway partnership formally launched Medway’s intention to become a Marmot place at an event at Rochester Corn Exchange. The launch was attended by over a 110 people from a range of public, private, voluntary and academic sector partners. The event aimed to bring stakeholders together to raise awareness of the Marmot initiative, consider the current status of health equity in Medway and discuss key priorities to reduce health inequalities locally. Following the launch event, the Medway Advisory Group committed to the following aspiration for Medway: *“In ten years time, Medway will halve the gap in life expectancy between Medway and England; halve the gap in life expectancy between the best and worst-off areas in Medway; and halve the gap in healthy life expectancy between Medway and England.”*
- 3.2 The Medway Marmot Advisory Group is chaired by Sir Michael Marmot and has senior representation from Medway Council, NHS, education, voluntary sector and is currently aiming to recruit young people and private business members. The group meet quarterly and aim to:
- Provide expertise and advice to support the development of Marmot priorities and actions.
 - Commit to health equity and the building blocks of health within their organisations.
 - Represent their organisations and ensure that relevant feedback is provided to and from the group.
 - Take responsibility for progressing agreed actions within their respective organisations.
- 3.3 Appendix A is the first independent report from the Institute of Health Equity to Medway and all the local system partners who can play a role in addressing health inequalities.
- 3.4 The report provides a summary of the Marmot principles, the local health inequalities data, progress since Medway stated its intention to become a Marmot Place, evidence of best practice and concludes with a set of recommendations.
- 3.5 These recommendations are informed by inputs from key stakeholders, residents, the current health inequalities data and the evidence from other Marmot Places.

4. Risk management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Lack of partner engagement	Medway system partners do not engage or take action to reduce	Communications strategy to engage all partners. Championing progress and success	BII

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
	health inequalities in Medway	of partners who do take action and challenging partners who do not meaningfully engage	
System and organisational change	System and organisational change over the next few years, make the ten year plan objectives and recommendations difficult to implement	The Medway Marmot Place Partnership receives full cross sector and cross party support, and all system leaders (current and future) commit to tackling health inequalities as a core priority	BII

For risk rating, please refer to the following table:

Likelihood	Impact:
A Very likely B Likely C Unlikely D Rare	I Catastrophic II Major III Moderate IV Minor

5. Consultation

- 5.1. A key priority for the Resident Engagement Group was a scoping exercise to gather information to generate a baseline understanding of how people are experiencing health inequalities across Medway. All community groups, organisations and key system partners were asked to submit any engagement insights or projects from the previous five years, that highlighted people's views on health inequalities. Submissions were made to a generic email address marmot@medway.gov.uk
- 5.2. Over a 4 week period organisations were asked to submit documents for consideration. The insight gathering had 3 exclusion criteria for submissions:
 - The submission contained no insights related to the eight marmot principles.
 - The submission insights were not attributable to Medway.
 - The submission insights did not have supporting demographic data to enable a robust level of analysis.
- 5.3. The full resident insight produced by EK360, explores the collective insights and research undertaken by organisations across Medway to be pooled and reviewed to build an understanding of how Medway residents are currently experiencing health inequality. It explores inequality against each of the eight Marmot principles, seeking to build a picture of the issues people are experiencing, who is experiencing them and in what circumstances.

6. Climate change implications

- 6.1 Marmot Principle 8 is to “*Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together*”. The Marmot Place Partnership is completely complimentary and supportive of the Medway Council Climate Change Action Plan, due to the strong overlap of the health and climate change agenda.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications as result of this report. The Institute of Health Equity are funded by the Public Health grant to support the Medway Marmot Place Partnership progress.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

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Appendices

Appendix A Draft Medway Marmot Partnership Report January 2026

Background papers

None