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All media enquiries: Felicity Porritt [f.porritt@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:f.porritt@ucl.ac.uk) 07739 419219

**New bold & ambitious framework to reduce inequities & build back fairer for future generations  
“If Government is serious about levelling up, here’s how to do it”, says Marmot**

The leading global institute on health inequalities – the [UCL Institute of Health Equity \(IHE\)](#) – has published a new framework, which includes new bold and ambitious recommendations on how to reduce health inequities and build back fairer from the COVID-19 pandemic for future generations. The Framework is part of a new Marmot Review and comes as life expectancy falls for everyone across the UK, and health inequities widen, at a cost of £39 billion every year.

The new Review, published today 30<sup>th</sup> June, was commissioned by the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership. The City Region had a 25% higher COVID-19 death rate than England as a whole in the 13 months to March 2021. This high death rate contributed to a decline in life expectancy in the North West region, which was larger than the average in England. Life expectancy fell in 2020 by 1.6 years for men and 1.2 years for women in the North West compared 1.3 years and 0.9 years, respectively, across England.

Commenting, the IHE’s Director, [Professor Sir Michael Marmot](#), said if the government is serious about levelling up health inequities, equity of health and wellbeing must be at the heart of government and business strategy rather narrow economic goals:

*“Greater Manchester has high levels of avoidable health inequalities as a result of longstanding economic and social inequities, and as across the country, ethnic disadvantage. The City Region has also experienced high rates of mortality from COVID-19 and particularly damaging long-term economic and social effects during the pandemic as a result of prolonged lockdowns. These multiple negative impacts will damage health and widen health inequalities unless action to build back fairer is introduced across the City Region.*

*The Institute of Health Equity has previously called for a national inequalities strategy to provide the backbone of the government’s levelling up agenda. ‘[Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives](#)’ now lays out a clear framework to reduce health inequities for future generations. The Region’s devolved powers, leadership and strong existing programmes make it well positioned to take a lead, provided central government commits to long-term additional investment.”*

*Responding, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, who launched the Marmot Review 10 Years On in 2020 said the Covid Pandemic has exposed and amplified the reality that many of our residents have lives, jobs and homes which worsen their health.*

*“The pandemic has brutally exposed just how unequal England actually is. People have lived parallel lives over the last 18 months. People in low-paid, insecure work have often had little choice in their level of exposure to Covid; and the risk of getting it and bringing it back home to those they live with.*

*“Levelling up needs to start in the communities that have been hit hardest by the pandemic. To improve the nation’s physical and mental health, we need to start by giving all of fellow citizens a good job and good home. We are grateful to Michael Marmot for showing how Greater Manchester can improve the health of our residents and we hope the Government will back us with the resources and powers to put better health at the heart of our recovery.”*

## Key recommendations include:

The Problem	The Solution
<b>1. Build back fairer for future generations – prioritise children &amp; young people</b>	
While children and young people have been at far less risk from the disease than older adults, they have been disproportionately, and inequitably, harmed by the impacts of restrictions and lockdowns and are experiencing the most rapid increases in unemployment alongside poor mental health, already at concerning levels pre-pandemic.	Additional support for early years settings; extend interventions to support young people’s mental health & wellbeing at school & work; and offer all 18-25-year-olds in-work training, employment or post-18 education – Greater Manchester’s strong record on reducing inequities in early years & educational attainment needs scaling up, strengthening & tailoring to need
<b>2. Build back fairer resources – rebalance spending towards prevention</b>	
Cuts to public funding in the decade to 2020 damaged health and contributed to the country’s high and unequal toll from COVID-19. The cuts were regressive (larger cuts to poorer areas) resulting in local authorities with greater deprivation being affected from the Pandemic the worst.	Double the budget for prevention in the total health care budget in Greater Manchester within five years and a system-wide prevention/health spending target for all of Greater Manchester to be developed by end of 2021, with incremental targeted increases over five years.
<b>3. Build back fairer standards – for healthy living</b>	
Guaranteeing equitable access to a range of quality services such as health care, education, police and fire, alongside a baseline minimum income for healthy living, improves living and working conditions that drive health equity.	Develop minimum standards for healthy living so communities can challenge employers, businesses, service providers & local authorities on the quality of employment, environment & housing, transport & clean air.
<b>4. Build back fairer institutions – extend anchor institution approaches to VCSE &amp; businesses</b>	
Anchor institutions (large public & private sector organisations e.g., universities, hospitals & businesses) are rooted in places and connected to their communities – they have significant assets & spending power, and the ability to scale social value contracting.	Encourage anchor institutions to extend approach to VCSE* sector and businesses – their significant resources benefit the communities in which they are based by hiring local populations and direct supply chains to support local economies (see Box 1, Businesses in Executive Summary)
<b>5. Build back fairer monitoring &amp; accountability – develop equity targets</b>	
The Greater Manchester Marmot Beacon Indicators were proposed specifically for monitoring equity in areas that are highly relevant to health equity as set out in the Framework diagram.	Marmot Beacon Indicators to develop publicly accessible targets to monitor progress towards Building Back Fairer from COVID-19 through an equity lens to inform action and maintain a focus on wider determinants of health.
<b>6. Build back fairer through greater local power &amp; control – devolution</b>	
While Greater Manchester, as a devolved region, has more powers and flexibilities than other regions in England, there are still significant limitations in how far the Combined Authority can make decisions that affect health and equity – national changes are needed to the City’s ability to improve health equity.	National support needs to be strengthened to allow devolved regions, such as Greater Manchester, to leverage more power and flexibility to address local health inequities through increased control of employment services, labour market, social housing and early years policies.



## **Editor's Notes**

\* The voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector is an important partner for statutory health and social care agencies and plays a key role in improving health, well-being and care outcomes.

For media enquiries please contact Felicity Porritt [f.porritt@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:f.porritt@ucl.ac.uk), 07739 419219 or Rowan Walker, UCL Media Relations Team on [rowan.walker@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:rowan.walker@ucl.ac.uk) or +44 (0) 7986 463767 or for Andy Burnham, Mayor, Greater Manchester, Laura Conrad| Senior Communications and Engagement Manager Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership [laura.conrad@nhs.net](mailto:laura.conrad@nhs.net) 07815 655212

### **Background, Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives**

Recognising persisting inequalities in health in Greater Manchester, the GM Health and Social Care Partnership, including the Combined Authority, considered if, as a devolved region, it could take the necessary steps to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

To aid this, in 2019 the UCL Institute of Health Equity (IHE) was invited to work with GM Systems to establish a Marmot City Region, focussed on reducing health inequalities and inequalities in the social determinants of health.

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, exposing and amplifying inequalities in health and the social determinants of health in Greater Manchester, as in the rest of England. IHE's work with Greater Manchester was reoriented. The aim of this review is to provide evidence of the health inequality challenges the City Region will face post-COVID-19 and to make recommendations to reduce them.

For those interested in **more analysis, a [roundtable discussion](#) will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1-2.30pm**, on how the UK's first Marmot city region can take the lead and build back fairer for future generations from the COVID-19 Pandemic will be held on **Wednesday 30 June 1300-1400hrs UK time**. In addition to Sir Michael, speakers include:

- **Andy Burnham**, Mayor of Greater Manchester
- **Dr Sandeep Ranote**, Executive Medical Lead MH - GM Health & Social Care Partnership
- Member(s) of the GM Youth Combined Authority TBA
- **Jeanelle de Gruchy**, DPH for Tameside and President of ADPH
- **Liz Windsor-Welsh**, Chief Executive of Action Together
- **Joanne Roney**, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council
- **Sarah Price**, Chief Officer, Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership
- **Mark Hughes**, *Growth Company TBC*

### **[About the UCL Institute of Health Equity](#)**

Our mission is nothing less than a fairer, healthier society. The Institute of Health Equity was established in 2011 and is led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot at University College London. The aim is to develop and support approaches to health equity and build on work that has assessed, measured and implemented approaches to tackle inequalities in health - works such as the '[WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health](#)' and '[Fair Society Healthy Lives](#)' (The Marmot Review).

Since 2011, the Institute has led and collaborated on works to address the Social Determinants of Health and improve health equity. These works include the [PAHO Commission on Equity and Health](#)

[Inequalities](#) in the Americas, a [Review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide](#) for the WHO European Region, [Indicators for Local Authorities in England](#), [Healthy Places, Healthy Lives](#), [Social Determinants of Mental Health](#), [local practice resources for public health](#).

**Professor Sir Michael Marmot** is Professor of Epidemiology at University College London, Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity, and Past President of the World Medical Association. Professor Marmot has led research groups on health inequalities for over 40 years. He chairs the [Commission on Equity and Health Inequalities in the Americas](#), set up in 2015 by the World Health Organization's Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO/ WHO). He was Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH), which was set up by the World Health Organization in 2005, and produced the report entitled: *'Closing the Gap in a Generation'* in August 2008. At the request of the British Government, he conducted the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010, which published its report *'Fair Society, Healthy Lives'* in February 2010. This was followed by the [European Review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide](#), for WHO Euro in 2014. Professor Marmot served as President of the British Medical Association (BMA) in 2010-2011, and is President of the British Lung Foundation and in 2000 was knighted by Her Majesty The Queen, for services to epidemiology and the understanding of health inequalities.

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We have a progressive and integrated approach to our teaching and research – championing innovation, creativity and cross-disciplinary working. We teach our students how to think, not what to think, and see them as partners, collaborators and contributors. For almost 200 years, we are proud to have opened higher education to students from a wide range of backgrounds and to change the way we create and share knowledge.

We were the first in England to welcome women to university education and that courageous attitude and disruptive spirit is still alive today. We are UCL [www.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ucl.ac.uk) | Follow [@uclnews](#) on Twitter | Watch our [YouTube](#) channel | Listen to UCL podcasts on [SoundCloud](#) | Find out what's on at [UCL Minds](#) | #MadeAtUCL. Find out how UCL is helping lead the global fight against COVID-19 [www.ucl.ac.uk/covid-19-research](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/covid-19-research)