

# REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

## BHNFT Health Inequalities Action Plan – Cover Note

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### 1. Purpose and Background of Report

- 1.1 This report introduces the Health and Wellbeing Board to Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Action Plan to reduce health inequalities over the next 18 months.
- 1.2 People in Barnsley experience poorer health and wellbeing than people in many parts of the country. These inequalities in health are long-lasting, persistent, and driven by social, economic and environmental inequalities. Health inequalities are not inevitable, they are preventable. Addressing the unjust differences in health between our communities has always been important, however, as the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its roots in the social and economic structure of our society becomes increasingly clear, BHNFT and Barnsley place partners must respond.
- 1.3 Even though the drivers of inequalities are rooted in the social, economic and environmental determinants, equity also needs to be addressed within the health and care system. There are inequitable differences in access and quality of health care that we can influence. Some of the most marginalised people in our communities have poorer access to health services, and a poorer experience of services, even though they may have more complex needs and require more care. Accordingly, without addressing inequitable access and quality, health care services could widen inequalities rather than help to reduce them. Reducing inequalities in the health status of the people of Barnsley, while working to improve overall population health, will start to eliminate some of the barriers faced by disadvantaged population groups.
- 1.4 Health inequalities and their underlying causes drive unscheduled hospital activity, putting greater demand on health services. Tackling health inequalities is a key part of demand management, as unmet need presents as preventable urgent and emergency demand.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Health and Wellbeing Board members are asked to:
  - Note and provide feedback on the contents of Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Health Inequalities Action Plan (*Appendix 1*).

- Support the delivery of the action plan by continuing to work collaboratively to address health inequalities and promote health equity in Barnsley.

### **3. Delivering the [Health & Wellbeing Strategy](#)**

3.1 The NHS in England is committed to addressing health inequalities and has identified priority actions that build on the measures to implement the NHS Long Term Plan. We intend to build on these actions to maximise the benefits Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT) can provide to the population of Barnsley, and uphold our partnership commitment to the Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021–2030.

### **4. Reducing Health Inequalities**

4.1 This action plan details the BHNFT priorities to address health inequalities over the next 18 months and complements the new BHNFT Strategy which will be launched in March 2022.

4.2 The initial actions BHNFT will take to improve population health and promote health equity are spread across three tiers of activity. We aim to achieve the following:

- A) By establishing new services, we will prevent the onset, progression and impacts of disease through early intervention, narrowing the inequality gap in the healthy life expectancy.
- B) By enhancing existing services, we will reduce inequalities in access to care, and address disparities in patient's experience of care to improve patient outcomes.
- C) By harnessing the Trust's role as an anchor institution to help build a more inclusive society and economy in Barnsley, we will help to address inequalities in the wider determinants of health.

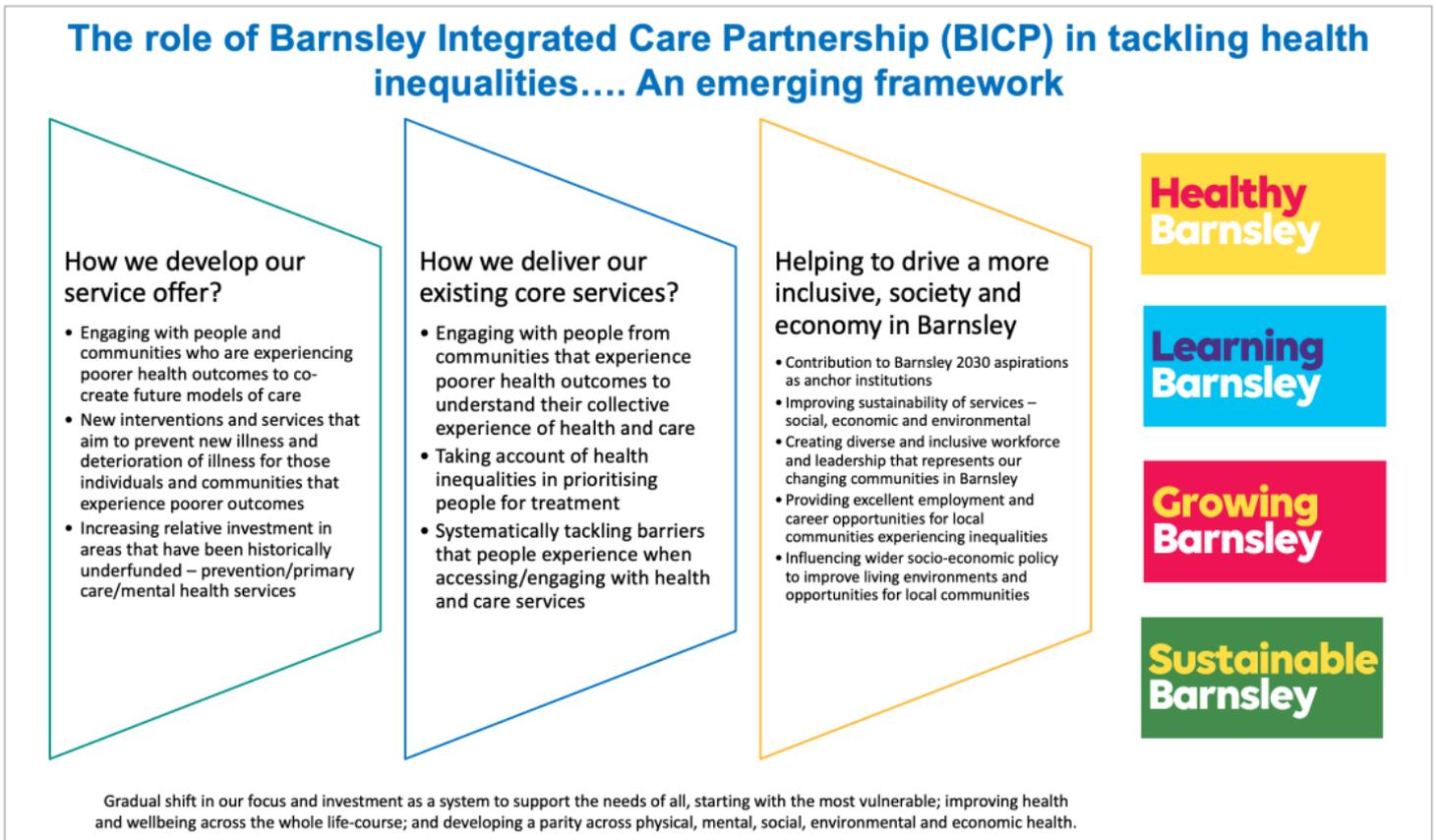
4.3 Health inequalities are caused by complex interaction between many different factors, and therefore will not be solved by a single organisation's action plan. However, it is important we start somewhere with the factors that we can influence. This plan describes the initial priority actions that we can take as an organisation to reduce health inequalities in Barnsley. There are three enablers which are essential to deliver this action plan:

- Understanding of the concepts of health inequalities and population health.
- Barnsley integrated care partnership collaboration (place level working).
- Organisational leadership that promotes health equity.

4.4 It is important to acknowledge our partnership role in improving public health and reducing health inequalities. This action plan feeds into the Barnsley

Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) Public Health plan for the next three years, and is based on the same framework that is being used across the Barnsley health and care system to align and strengthen our joint action – this is demonstrated by the graphic below.

**Integrated Care Delivery Group (ICDG) Three Tier Framework**



**5. Appendices**

**5.1 Appendix 1 – Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust’s Health Inequalities Action Plan.**



BHNFT HI Action Plan v6.0.pdf

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