

Select Committee Task and Finish Group Scoping Document

The process for establishing a task and finish group is:

1. The Select Committee identifies a potential topic for a task and finish group
2. The Select Committee Chairman and the Scrutiny Officer complete the scoping template.
3. The Select Committee reviews the scoping document
4. The Select Committee agrees the membership of the task and finish group.

<p>Review Topic</p> <p>Health Inequalities in Surrey</p>
<p>Select Committee(s)</p> <p>Adults and Health Select Committee</p>
<p>Relevant background</p> <p>Health inequalities are defined by the King’s Fund as being “avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people” caused by a complex mix of societal, environmental and individual influences.</p> <p>The reduction of health inequalities has been an important component of public service policy and delivery for over a decade, and yet nationally they have continued to increase. As outlined in Surrey County Council’s Organisation Strategy, agreed by full Council on 8 December 2020, tackling health inequalities is one of the Council’s four priority objectives, and over the next five years it aims to “drive work across the system to reduce widening health inequalities”. Further to this, the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy, first published in May 2019, seeks to “reduce health inequalities so no one is left behind”, and, with this aim in mind, a refresh of its priorities, governance arrangements and metrics is currently underway.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted and deepened the stark health inequalities across the UK. The risk of dying among those diagnosed with Covid-19 is higher in people living in more deprived areas than those in the least deprived, and this is an indicator of the inequalities that have existed for many years across all aspects of health, brought into focus by the global pandemic.</p> <p>With this in mind, integrated working between the Council and Surrey Heartlands ICS has led to the establishment of the Equalities and Health Inequalities Board, the focus of which is to implement key urgent actions while linking with the long-term actions (i.e. wider determinants of health) identified and set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>At its private induction meeting on 14 July 2021, the Adults and Health Select Committee conducted a forward planning session and identified the reduction of health inequalities as a key area of focus. As a result, it was agreed that a task group would be formed to investigate health inequalities in Surrey and what is being done to tackle these issues.</p>

Why this is a scrutiny item

Scrutiny can take an elevated view of health inequalities in the county by considering individual experiences of those experiencing health inequalities (as outlined in the Priority Populations identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy) and their interactions with different organisations, as well as interviewing Council officers and health and social care partners to review the strategies currently in place to deal with issues faced by Surrey's most vulnerable residents. Scrutiny can support both the Council and the wider health and social care system in Surrey to understand how they can address and tackle health inequalities faced by residents.

Considering these many interconnecting services collectively from the perspective of residents will foster an improved understanding of how public sector organisations can work together more effectively to improve outcomes. Scrutiny can also support the Council and its partners to identify any gaps in support as well as highlighting those services and initiatives that work well.

The structural complexity of health inequalities makes scrutiny an ideal space for its investigation. Scrutiny is uniquely able to investigate complicated cross-cutting issues and has the statutory powers to undertake this important piece of work.

What question is the task group aiming to answer?

People with lived experience of health inequalities (Priority Populations identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy)

1. What are the underlying issues driving local health inequalities and what can be done to tackle these?
2. What are the barriers to services being faced by people with lived experience of health inequalities?
3. What examples are there of Surrey residents experiencing health inequalities?
4. How are people with lived experience of health inequalities involved in the co-production of measures to tackle these issues?
5. If there was one thing you could change to help tackle health inequalities in Surrey, what would it be and why?

Public Health/NHS officers and partners

1. What is your organisation's strategy for tackling health inequalities?
2. What measures are in place to provide extra support and services to those in Surrey most likely to experience health inequalities (to redress the balance)?
3. What data is available on local health inequalities and what are the key issues arising from this?
4. How does the Council and its partners work with local communities and service users to learn from them about how to reduce health inequalities?
5. How does the Council and its partners ensure local people are involved in making decisions about the services and support they receive?
6. Do the Council and its partners face any barriers that prevent them from further reducing health inequalities? If so, why?
7. What work does the Council do to learn from other local authorities and improve how it tackles health inequalities?

Aim

For Members of the Task Group to develop an understanding of health inequalities in Surrey, scrutinise the progress being made on tackling these, and contribute to the development of future policy by both Surrey County Council and its health and social care partners

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of the lived experiences of those residents experiencing health inequalities and the barriers they face
- Develop an understanding of the data, strategies in place and work being undertaken by the Council and its partners to help tackle health inequalities
- Develop an understanding of good practice elsewhere and how this might be applied in Surrey
- Develop a set of recommendations to help assist the Council and its partners in continuing to tackle health inequalities across Surrey
- Communicate its findings to partners both locally and nationally

Scope (within/out of)In scope

- Relevant work and strategies currently in place to help reduce health inequalities
- Health and Wellbeing Board and its implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Residents with lived experience of health inequalities
- Third sector organisations and charities
- Any organisations commissioned by the Council and/or the NHS to deliver services to tackle health inequalities
- Best practice exhibited by other local authorities and health and social care partners

Out of scope

- Non-Surrey County Council services
- Non-NHS services

Outcomes for Surrey/Benefits

- Contribute to the reduction of health inequalities being faced by Surrey residents
- Contribute to the Council's strategic priority to "drive work across the system to reduce widening health inequalities"
- Support both the Council and the wider health and social care system in Surrey to understand how they can address and tackle health inequalities faced by residents
- Create a shared understanding of barriers being faced by residents with lived experiences of health inequalities
- Take an elevated view of services and support available in Surrey by considering individual experiences of those with lived experience of health inequalities and their interactions with different agencies

Proposed work plan

It is important to clearly allocate who is responsible for the work, to ensure that Members and officers can plan the resources needed to support the Task Group.

Timescale	Tasks	Responsible
October 2021	Workshop with Public Health officers to better understand health inequalities in Surrey and what practical measures they, and other partners, are seeking to take to address the issues	Scrutiny Officer, Public Health, Task Group
October 2021	Planning workshop with Task Group Members to agree the scope, work plan and desired outcomes	Scrutiny Officer, Task Group
November 2021-January 2022	Witness sessions with representatives of groups experiencing health inequalities	Scrutiny Officer, Task Group
January 2022	Interim report to the Select Committee	Scrutiny Officer, Task Group Spokesman
February-April 2022	Witness sessions with Council and NHS officers to understand what practical measures they are seeking to take to address the issues Witness sessions with other local authorities, partners and academics seeking to tackle the issues to understand what best practice looks like elsewhere	Scrutiny Officer, Task Group
May 2022	Workshop with Task Group Members to identify potential recommendations	Scrutiny Officer, Task Group
May-June 2022	Compile report Test recommendations Report sign-off	Scrutiny Officer Scrutiny Officer Task Group
June 2022	Report back to the Select Committee/Cabinet	Task Group Spokesman

Potential witnesses

- Surrey County Council Director of Public Health
- Surrey County Council Health Inequalities Lead
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
- Cabinet Member for Health
- Community/voluntary sector organisations
- Independent Mental Health Network
- Surrey County Council Assistant Director for Mental Health
- Healthwatch Surrey
- District and Borough Councils
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community representatives
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community representatives
- Learning disabilities and autism charities
- Surrey County Council Assistant Director for Learning Disabilities, Autism and Transition
- Homeless charities
- Food bank representatives
- Domestic abuse charities
- Surrey County Council Domestic Abuse Team
- Surrey Heartlands
- Surrey and Borders Partnership
- Housing charities
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Academics specialising in health inequalities

Useful documents

- Build Back Fairer: The Covid-19 Marmot Review: [Build Back fairer - the COVID-19 Marmot review \(health.org.uk\)](https://www.health.org.uk/news/articles-and-reports/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review)
- Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On: [the-marmot-review-10-years-on-full-report.pdf \(instituteofhealthequity.org\)](https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/publications/marmot-review-10-years-on-full-report)
- The King's Fund: What are health inequalities? [What are health inequalities? | The King's Fund \(kingsfund.org.uk\)](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/health-inequalities)
- Centre for Governance and Scrutiny: Peeling the Onion – Learning, tips and tools from the Health Inequalities Scrutiny Programme: [Peeling the onion \(cfgs.org.uk\)](https://www.cfgs.org.uk/peeling-the-onion)
- Surrey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Surrey-i \(surreyi.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment)
- Surrey Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy: [Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(healthysurrey.org.uk\)](https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/surrey-health-and-wellbeing-strategy)
- Surrey County Council Organisation Strategy: [Surrey County Council Our focus \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/our-focus)
- Surrey Covid-19 Community Impact Assessment: [Surrey Covid-19 Recovery Community Impact Assessment \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/covid-19-recovery-community-impact-assessment)

Potential barriers to success (Risks/Dependencies)

- Lack of willingness to engage by representatives of groups that have experience of, or are currently experiencing, health inequalities and barriers to services
- Lack of willingness to engage from agencies that are not statutorily required to provide evidence to the Select Committee

Equalities implications

The Task Group recognises that there are a number considerations around equalities when conducting its work, and there are a number of people with various needs that will be contributing to this process. It will be mindful of how it conducts its work in order to ensure people are provided the opportunity to contribute, and that any barriers to doing so are mitigated.

The Task Group will monitor with officers the equalities implications emerging from its recommendations and will work to identify mitigation measures for those with a potentially negative impact.

Task Group Members	Angela Goodwin Trefor Hogg Riasat Khan Carla Morson Bernie Muir (Ex-Officio)
Co-opted Members	N/A
Spokesman for the Task Group	Angela Goodwin
Scrutiny Officer	Ben Cullimore