

MINDING THE GAP
Tackling Health Inequalities in Yorkshire and Humber

Can your JSNA pass the Marmot Test?
Event nr. Wakefield Thursday, 15th May 2012

- The first speaker was **Joanne Roney, CE of Wakefield MDC, who has inherited the Minding the Gap mantle following the demise of the Regional Structures. Joanne gave the Local Authority Perspective - What I need a JSNA to do to help me.** She set the context stressing the huge important change when Public Health returns to its original home with local Government with the opportunity to make a difference to the considerable inequalities existing. The importance of the JSNA underpinning the GP Commissioning Group and how it needs to reflect the situation in so many ways in the different Local Authority geographical areas. Joanne took a couple of questions:

I asked if she felt the JSNAs should show a link to the current National Campaigns e.g. Loneliness and Isolation which for me is also a reflection on the inequalities of access to services e.g. Health and social care services. Joanne said she would take that thought away and give consideration as to how it could be linked.

The recurring theme of the other speakers was inequalities, we saw a huge amount of data and statistics showing how the facts of a person's environment affect their Life Chances.

- **Jamie Pearce , a Professor of Health Geography spoke about the Impact of the local environment and Living Conditions on Health Inequalities during an era of Austerity.**

There is huge social disparity between University graduates and those who don't go to University. Long term indicators don't take account of the public health focus on physical health.

- **Mike Grady – Principal Adviser, Institute of Health Equity Keeping the Focus on the Social Determinants of Health.** Life chances are critical to people. Standard life expectancy shows a varied gradient according to social circumstances.

Data shown illustrated the difference in cognitive learning levels by the age of 22 months. By the age of 3 years there was a poor level of development for those who live in poor social circumstances. Even if the social circumstances are good and supportive of good development until the age of 5 years that will not be maintained throughout life if social circumstances deteriorate. Neither will intervention in early life continue or maintain the improvement. There is good evidence that if circumstances are good and the child has a very supportive family he/she will continue to development well to the age of 22 years. He was an excellent speaker and said to me over lunch, I must do everything possible to get older people online or they will surely be isolated.

- **Professor Mark Gamsu spoke on Health Inequalities and the Economic Crisis (Work with London Boroughs.)** Standard mortality rate chances show a relationship to unemployment. Social deprivation shows poor social support. Data showed the poor achievement of those affected by social deprivation compared with others.

Aims should be to give every child the best start in life, ensuring a healthy standard of living for all. Sustainable communities = social networks. If we focus on the lowest of gradients to reduce inequalities will make no difference to the gradients.

- **Anne Longfield OBE CE of 4 children** - continued on the importance of every child having the best start and what would/could affect that best start. There are 500,000 forgotten families and child poverty grew during the last two years of the Labour Government. Things which affect the best chance for a child which we should work
 - **Domestic Violence**
 - **Child Poverty**
 - **Post natal depression**

The Foundation Years should have a new focus. The Govt. has vision for the early years, proposing parenting classes. Early intervention plans for 15 hours for 2 years olds. Families have said, "Give me strength". The task is to change the system and attitudes. Develop building blocks to make it happen. There are to be pilots following consultation. The duty to consult is the crudest form of Community engagement.

Whose agenda?

- Row or steer
- Joining the dots
- Realigning services

There is a need to prioritise in the JSNA and apply the acid test. Just churning out data means a killer JSNA.

- **John Hocking (Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust) Create and Develop healthy and sustainable Places and Communities** – showed us the latest eco clever designs in housing being used by JRF.
- **Andrew Harper, Head of Community Accounts, Shaw Trust spoke on Create fair Employment and Good Work for All**
 - **Has volunteers in 41 shops,**
 - **18000 employer relationships**
 - **14 social enterprises**

Showed data which proved that mortality rate is higher in the unemployed. Statistics showed Hull has the largest youth unemployment. North Yorkshire considerably less.

For me one very interesting fact was that those people who live in London with high housing benefit payments are staying put to be near their work but their housing is going into multi occupancy.

Disappointment was expressed that there were only 3 councillors at the event. The JSNA needs councillors on board to make the best happen. I found it one of the most stimulating events I have attended. (I received notice of the event through my region connections)

