West Midlands Combined Authority

WMCA Wellbeing Board

Date	8th March 2022
Report title	Revisiting the Health of the Region (report)
Portfolio Lead	Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Wellbeing Board Chair
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Interim Chief Executive laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Tatum Matharu, Strategic Lead for Thrive and Health Inequalities tatum.matharu@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Mubasshir Ajaz, Head of Wellbeing & Prevention Mubasshir.ajaz@wmca.org.uk Ed Cox, Director for Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform Ed.cox@wmca.org.uk

Recommendation(s) for action and decision:

The Wellbeing Board is asked to:
>   **review** the attached draft report; and
>   **approve** the draft for completion and publication.

1.   **Purpose**

1.1   At its last meeting (January 2022), the Wellbeing Board was presented with plans to revisit the Health of the Region report.
1.2   This paper presents the report draft that has since been produced and welcomes input following Board Members' review of the draft.
1.3   Subject to revisions, the Wellbeing Board is asked to approve completion and publication of the report.
1.4   Progress on the HOTR Data Hub, to be launched with the report, is also presented.

2. Revisiting the Health of the Region (draft report)

2.1 As proposed at the previous Wellbeing Board meeting (January 2022), we have produced an interim report on the Health of the Region, focused on celebrating the progress made on commitments to action and other successes since the publication of the previous HOTR report (in November 2020).

2.2 Whilst there were initial plans for this to be an annual report, the pace of change in this space (given the scale of the challenge) means that an annual comprehensive audit and full data report is not the most helpful product at this stage. Instead, an update on progress against the 50 commitments made, and successes beyond those commitments, as well as the evolving nature of the picture is put forward as 'Revisiting the Health of the Region'. This rationale is made clear within the report.

2.3 To note, as proposed at the last Wellbeing Board meeting, we will then move into a three-year cycle for the main HOTR report, with an interim at 18 months (following the rationale and the pattern and now set). The next HOTR report is therefore due in November 2023.

2.4 Comments from the Wellbeing Board on all aspects of the HOTR report are welcome.

2.5 Unless substantive revisions are required, the Wellbeing Board is asked for approval to complete and publish the report.

2.6 Completion includes minor revisions from the Wellbeing Board; an appendix that provides a brief line on progress against each commitment; a complete reference list; and front materials (a foreword, acknowledgements and executive summary). We will then work with our design team on the final layout with images.

3. HOTR Data Hub (launch)

3.1 As presented at the last Wellbeing Board meeting, 'Revisiting the Health of the Region' is a package, with an HOTR Data Hub being launched alongside the report.

3.2 The HOTR Data Hub is an online space, hosted by the WMCA, that enables users to have quick access to the indicators included in the original HOTR report with updated data.

3.3 Having moved on from the proof of concept, we are now presenting the minimal viable product – essentially an online version of the data report.

3.4 We will continue to develop this product, working with stakeholders to ensure maximum utility. The ambition is to develop a primarily visual and interactive tool that aids comprehension of the relevant datasets, with a particular focus on the wider determinants of health and the cumulative impact of these at various intersections, as experienced in reality by residents in the WMCA area.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no additional legal implications at this stage. We continue to be mindful of legal implications around data with regards to the ongoing development of the HOTR Data Hub.

5. Equalities Implications

5.1   There are no additional equalities implications at this stage. We continue to be mindful of equalities implications around digital access with regards to the ongoing development of the HOTR Data Hub.

6   Inclusive Growth Implications

6.1   There are no new inclusive growth implications associated with this work, as it is a reflection of progress on activity already underway. However, the success of the work undertaken by the WMCA and its partners is critical to realising inclusive growth – reducing health inequalities is the headline outcome of the Health & Wellbeing fundamental of the Inclusive Growth Framework. The latest Marmot report and the original Health of the Region report highlighted that this trajectory is currently negative, with health disparities worsening. As such, this analysis needs to be kept in sight for other areas of delivery for WMCA and its partners, to ensure that all opportunities to improve health for key people and population groups are realised.

7.   Geographical Area of Report's Implications

7.1   There are no additional geographical implications at this stage.

8.   Other Implications

8.1   None.

9.   Schedule of Background Papers

9.1   [Revisiting the Health of the Region (draft report)](#)