Health Equity in England: Continued Challenges

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Health As an Asset
Gastein
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Social justice

Material, psychosocial, political empowerment

Creating the conditions for people to have control of their lives

The CSDH – closing the gap in a generation 2005-2008

The Marmot Review – Fair Society Healthy Lives 2009/10
1. Stalling Life Expectancy

Source: ONS, National life tables, UK: 2015 to 2017
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2015to2017
Annual change in life expectancy at birth in weeks, UK, 1981-83 - 2015-17

Source: ONS, National life tables, UK: 2015 to 2017
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2015to2017
Change in life expectancy at birth in weeks, UK, 2014-16 - 2015-17

Source: ONS, National life tables, UK: 2015 to 2017
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2015to2017
US Life Expectancy – year of birth

The graph illustrates the life expectancy at age 50 for men across different income brackets from 1920 to 1950. The lines represent the life expectancy for the richest 10%, middle 50%, and poorest 10% of the population. As the year of birth progresses from 1920 to 1950, there is a noticeable increase in life expectancy for all income brackets, with the richest 10% experiencing the highest increase.
US Life Expectancy – year of birth
Life expectancy by deprivation decile, 2001-03 – 2014-16 – male

Life expectancy by deprivation decile, 2001-03 – 2014-16 – female

Inequality in life expectancy at birth (slope index of inequality), England, 2001-03 – 2014-16

A. Give every child the best start in life
   - Funding issues, child poverty
B. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
   - Skills training, NEETS, whole school approaches
C. Create fair employment and good work for all
   - Youth unemployment, contract workers, insecure employment, involuntary part-time working, ALMP policies
D. Ensure healthy standard of living for all
   - Minimum income standard, minimum wages, benefit caps
E. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
   - Green policies, social isolation, housing
F. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
   - Cost inflation, resource allocation, demographic pressures
Child poverty (<60% median income)

Figure 1.1 An average of one in five children in rich countries lives in relative income poverty
Percentage of children aged 0–17 living in a household with income lower than 60 per cent of the median, 2014 and 2008

Country average 2014: 21.0%

UNICEF Report Card 14
A. Give every child the best start in life

Percentage of children reaching a good level of development at age 5

Good level of Development and eligible for FSM

>67% Haringey, Lewisham, Bexley, Greenwich

c. 40% Stockton on Tees, Blackburn and Darwen, and Leicestershire

But room for improvement
Percentage of children achieving 5 or more GCSEs*, all and children eligible for free school meals

% of children attaining 5+ GCSEs including Maths and English

% of children attaining 5+ GCSEs and inequality gap 2014/15

Of concern

And room for improvement
If the success of children eligible for free school meals in London is shared across the country...

Copying London formula to reduce inequalities

School funding per pupil has been frozen in cash terms between 2015–16 and 2019–20, resulting in a real-terms cut of 6.5%. London the largest loser. (IFS)
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Chart 4: Long-run impact of tax and benefit reforms introduced between May 2015 and April 2019 by income decile and household type (including universal credit) [Download the data in Excel]
Figure 5: International average real wage growth, 2007-15
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Council cuts per head and premature mortality

Figure 2: Council cuts per head correlated against premature mortality rates

Cuts in council budgets are greatest in areas in the North of England, with the worst health

Source: Due North report
Tax havens increase inequality

• 50% of wealth in tax havens belongs to top 0.01% of people in advanced economies
• That wealth is equivalent to 5% global GDP
• Tax avoidance on massive scale

• Added to that is avoidance of tax by multinationals

Zucman, G. Guardian 8 Nov 2017
Multinationals’ tax avoidance

• €600bn a year shifted to world’s tax havens
• €350bn into European tax havens – mainly profits from EU countries. Taxed at 0 to 5%
• Deprives the EU of a fifth of corporate tax revenue: €60bn a year
• For the UK €12.7bn a year
• Cf £350m a week is £18.2bn a year

Zucman, G. Guardian 8 Nov 2017
Why treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick?