

Health and inclusive growth in Glasgow: key messages

- Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences across the population, and between population groups.
- Health inequalities include differences in the status of people's health, differences in the care that people receive, and differences in the opportunities people have to lead healthy lives.
- Health inequalities are largely the result of the conditions in which we are born, grow up, live, work and grow old – they are 'socially determined'. Social and economic ('socioeconomic') inequalities drive health inequalities.
- Socioeconomic inequalities are associated with a range of negative outcomes across the population (including health inequalities). People living in the most deprived circumstances suffer most.
- Economic factors are the biggest determinants of population health. Population health is a driver of economic performance. Health and the economy have a mutually reinforcing relationship – a strong and inclusive economy, supports good health and wellbeing in the population, and vice versa.
- In recent years, life expectancy (a marker of how well society is functioning) has stalled for the first time since the Second World War, driven by increasing death rates among the poorest.
- A long history of widening health inequalities in Glasgow has worsened in the last few years. The 2008 financial crisis, the austerity that followed, and the COVID-19 pandemic have added to Glasgow's vulnerability in terms of health inequalities.
- Much is known about the types of policies that will improve population health and reduce health inequalities. Economic policymaking at Glasgow city level can support better and more equal population health.
- There is a stated desire to reduce health inequalities through economic means in Scottish policy, and at Glasgow city level.

- Striving for 'inclusive growth', an 'inclusive economy', or a 'wellbeing economy' involve different processes, priorities and indicators of progress. The central objectives of economic policy at city level matter for population health.
- 'Inclusive growth' means adopting principles of inclusion, even when there is little or no growth.
- 'Inclusive growth' is not only about better sharing the fruits of the economy after they have been produced; it involves many more people participating in both creating and benefiting from the city's wealth.
- Adopting the principles of community wealth building – in theory and in practice – is a path to a more inclusive economy in Glasgow.
- Improving the way some systems work in Glasgow will benefit population health and the economy, and support reducing health inequalities. These systems include early learning & childcare, public transport, and the procurement practices of large, locally rooted ('anchor') organisations.
- Indicators of progress must be carefully considered: what we measure matters – and what comes to matter most is often what we have chosen to measure.

The COVID-19 pandemic has broken our economic system. We can 'build back better' with economic policy decisions that are inclusive and sustainable for population health to be protected now and in the future.

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