

Fairer, healthier

Leeds as a Marmot City

Leeds is a thriving and diverse city, with a strong economy. But not everyone benefits from this in the same way. Health inequalities mean people living in the poorest part of Leeds live more of their life in ill-health, and die around 12 years earlier than people in the most affluent part of the city. Further, one in four of all Leeds adults live in the most deprived parts of Leeds, and for children that number is one in three. The picture is getting worse, exacerbated by the pandemic, and now by the cost-of-living crisis. We need to act now to make a change.

We have a proud history in Leeds of working in partnership, and of being united behind our common cause, as set out in our Best City Ambition, “to tackle poverty and inequality and improve quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home”. By becoming a Marmot City, we have made a commitment to go further in leveraging our collective powers to make systemic changes to the way we tackle inequalities, with the aim of making Leeds a fairer city.

No one organisation can do this alone, it requires a full city effort. Being a Marmot City is about ensuring everyone has access to the right ‘building blocks’ to good health, including high-quality and secure housing, better education, reliable and well-paid jobs, and a clean environment. A fairer, healthier city is essential if we are to meet our ambition to be the best city and is connected to all three pillars of the Best City Ambition: health and wellbeing, inclusive growth, zero carbon.

The good news is that as a city we are already committed to tackling health inequalities and have been able to make progress in some areas. But we need to do more and go faster. With the current financial context, the need to work together has never been more pressing. We need to learn from our previous successes, as well as find new ways if we are going to turn the curve and create a fairer city. This is where being a Marmot City will make a difference. It will be embedded across the different ways we work, enabling us to identify opportunities for better collaborative working in our mission to tackle health inequalities.

The Marmot principles

- Give every child the best start in life.
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.
- Create fair employment and good work for all.
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all.
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.
- Tackle discrimination, racism and their outcomes.
- Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together.



About the Marmot City Programme

Being a Marmot City means we have made a commitment to building a fairer city and reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing. We will work in partnership with the Institute of Health Equity (IHE) to develop our approach in Leeds. The IHE is led by the world-renowned expert in this field, Professor Sir Michael Marmot. We want everyone in Leeds to be part of it – local people, businesses, public sector, community sector, academia, and more – **we all have a role to play**.

The Marmot approach shows that our health is determined by the places we live, the quality of our work, the amount of money we have, and more - these are the building blocks of health. Without these people's physical and mental health will suffer.

Through the Marmot approach, we will:


- improve the opportunity for everyone to have all the **right building blocks for health and wellbeing**.
- develop approaches for everyone but at **a different scale or intensity depending on the needs of different communities**.
- focus on **every stage of life** from birth through to death.


Throughout the programme we will work with the team at the IHE to scope all the work that is happening in the city, identify where we can join aspects up together, and find where there are gaps. We will host a series of partnership events to bring together key stakeholders in specific areas of focus, to drive forward our collaborative approach to change.


Fairer, Healthier: Leeds as a Marmot City. Year One Action Plan.

1 Whole-system review

We will:

 Review city-wide data and approaches to tackling health inequalities.

 Develop city-wide indicators to help track progress on tackling inequalities.

 Publish findings and recommendations

2 Collective action

Two priorities:


 **Housing and Health**


 **0 to 5 year olds**


We will:

1. Carry-out detailed reviews of data and current local actions.
2. Review existing evidence.
3. Deliver collaborative workshops.
4. Develop action plans and co-ordinate collective action.

3 Cross cutting priorities

 **People's voices**
Analyse existing insight from local people about what matters most to them. In the first year, insight will be collated across each principle area.

 **Tackle discrimination, racism and their outcomes**
We are embedding this principle across the whole programme and will build on the upcoming national report from the IHE on structural racism.

 **Inclusive economies**
Building partnerships across health and economic sectors.

Maximising opportunities to address health inequalities across the system.

For more information visit:
<https://linktr.ee/fairerleeds>

