

NHS Innovation Accelerator 2022 Intake Call

Theme 1: Supporting equity of access, experience or outcomes for those at greatest risk of poor health outcomes.

As reported in *Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On*¹:

“Increases in life expectancy have slowed since 2010 with the slowdown greatest in more deprived areas of the country. Inequalities in life expectancy have increased since 2010, especially for women. Female life expectancy declined in the most deprived 10 percent of neighbourhoods between 2010-12 and 2016-18 and there were only negligible increases in male life expectancy in these areas...There are growing regional inequalities in life expectancy. Life expectancy is lower in the North and higher in the South. Within regions, life expectancy for men in the most deprived 10 percent of neighbourhoods decreased in the Northeast, Yorkshire and the Humber and the East of England. Life expectancy for women in the most deprived 10 percent of neighbourhoods decreased in every region except London, the West Midlands and the Northwest.” (Page number 13).

Since the publication of this report, COVID-19 has shone harsh light on some of the health and wider inequalities that persist in our society. It is increasingly clear that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on many who already face disadvantage and discrimination. The impact of the virus has been particularly detrimental on people living in areas of high deprivation, on people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities (BAME), and on older people, those with a learning disability and others with protected characteristics.² The newly appointed Director for Health Inequalities at NHS England, Dr Bola Owolabi, has said:

“COVID-19 has pushed health inequalities firmly up the priority list of health leaders and politicians alike. Now that we have their attention, we must take the specific measurable actions that we know can make a real difference to the life chances of many people who have been underserved for a long time.”³

This was echoed in the Long Term Plan (LTP) and the 2021/22 Operating Plan guidance⁴

We want to see innovations focused on equity of access, experience or outcomes for those at greatest risk of poor health outcomes.

We are interested to hear about all types of innovations (e.g., service, pathway, process, workforce, device, IT platform or app) targeted at any point in the care pathway - prevention, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation - for those at greatest risk of poor health outcomes, supporting equity of access, experience, or outcomes; and be targeted at one of the following:

- Individuals from black and minority ethnic communities
- Individuals living in areas of social deprivation
- Individuals from a health inclusion group (specifically: traveller communities, homeless people)
- Individuals with a learning disability
- Individuals with autism
- Individuals with a serious mental illness (SMI)

If your innovation has a digital component, we would welcome a discussion about how you are / can think about and begin to address possible digital exclusion.

¹ [Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On | The Health Foundation](#)

² [Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 \(Public Health England, Jun 2020\)](#)

³ [NHS England » Tackling health inequalities in the NHS](#)

⁴ [NHS Long Term Plan and 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance](#)