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## **Factsheet: Supporting the NHS to tackle health inequalities**

The Commissioning Assembly Health Inequalities working group chaired by GPs Dr Matt Kearney and Dr Sam Everington is developing an online toolkit to support CCGs in tackling health inequalities.

The Marmot Review showed us that health inequalities are still widespread in England. There is a pronounced socio-economic gradient in the prevalence of all major long-term conditions, in life expectancy and in healthy life expectancy. Of course taking action throughout society to tackle the wider causes of ill health and reduce inequalities is vital. But the NHS also has a pivotal contribution to make both in the way it commissions services and in the way it provides health care. Indeed it is estimated that healthcare is responsible for 15-20 percent of inequalities-related mortality. CCGs have a number of duties under the Health and Social Care Act (2012) regarding health inequalities and they will be assessed annually on performance of these.

### **Inequalities in life expectancy and potential years of life lost (PYLL)**

The Health and Social Care Information Centre publishes rates of PYLL by CCG. It is clear from information for 2012 that there are significant discrepancies in rates of premature mortality between the CCG area with the highest rate of premature mortality, with 3,215 PYLL per 100,000 registered patients, and the CCG with the lowest rate, with 1,414 PYLL per 100,000 registered patients. This compares to a national rate of 2,061.

It is clear from the CCG Outcomes Indicator Set that there remains a significant North/South divide in premature mortality across England, with people living in the North generally at higher risk of dying before their 75th birthday.

There continue to be significant gender inequalities, with worse outcomes in relation to premature mortality for males than females. In 2010 the male rate was 2,172 PYLL per 100,000 registered male patients, compared with 1,933 PYLL per 100,000 registered female patients.

From the 24 October 2013 Life Expectancy ONS statistical report (2010–12) male life expectancy at birth was highest in East Dorset (82.9 years); 8.9 years higher than in Blackpool, which had the lowest figure (74.0 years). Female life expectancy at birth was highest in Purbeck at 86.6 years and lowest in Manchester, where females could expect to live for 79.5 years.

The *Commissioning to Reduce Health Inequalities Toolkit*, planned for April 2014, will provide a practical resource to CCGs with evidence, implementation guidance and links to successful models of commissioning. Six key areas will be covered. These are specific commissioning actions that CCGs can take to reduce their local health inequalities:

- Improving access to health care for vulnerable groups
- Tackling unwarranted variation in care and outcomes
- Co-production of commissioning solutions
- Shared decision making
- Integration of care and services
- Social prescribing

Further details, including a link to the toolkit, will be included on this resource once it becomes available.