

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA560320174

Submitted: 07 November 2023 17:30 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy / decision:** Developing a Multi-Partner Research Programme

**Policy / decision type:** Cabinet Decision

**Overview of policy / decision:** It is recommended that ECC accept funding from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to establish a Health Determinants Research Collaboration in Greater Essex.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Through Everyone's Essex: our plan for levelling-up the county 2021 to 2025 Essex County Council has committed to working with partners to tackle health inequalities and the socio-economic factors that lead to poor health amongst residents and communities. These factors, known as the wider determinants of health, include poor housing, poverty, economic insecurity and low skills.

Good quality research will be essential if ECC and partners are to succeed in tackling the wider determinants of health and reducing inequality.

A Greater Essex HDRC will work to build research capacity and capability and drive a stronger research culture across the system. It will • conduct high-quality, inclusive research into the wider determinants of health, focused on those areas of Greater Essex where health outcomes are poorest (coastal towns in Tendring, Canvey Island, estates in Colchester, Basildon, Harlow, Southend-On-Sea and Thurrock).

**Executive Director responsible for policy / decision:** Tom Walker (Economy, Investment and Public Health)

**Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision:** Cllr John Spence (Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration)

**Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?:** New policy / decision

**How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?:** The impact of the Greater Essex HDRC will be assessed with reference to:

- a. Changes in health outcomes and inequalities: the HDRC's research will improve outcomes in those parts of GE where they are poorest, reducing health inequalities. The HDRC's impact on health outcomes and inequalities by developing impact case studies. Using quantitative and qualitative techniques, we will explore how HDRC research findings have impacted local policy decisions.
- b. Decision-making: the HDRC's work will drive change in the way decisions are taken, with political leaders seeking scrutiny of the evidence before implementing changes, ensuring new research is commissioned where the evidence does not exist. .
- c. Wider stakeholder's knowledge and behaviours: the HDRC will change the way partners' understand the value of research, increasing their appetite for, and trust in, research findings - unlocking further investments of time, energy and money in research activity.

The HDRC's impact on decision-making and stakeholders through an annual survey of senior politicians and officers and through follow-up interviews with a sample of respondents.

**Will this policy / decision impact on:**

**Service users:** No

**Employees:** No

**Wider community or groups of people:** Yes

**What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?:** Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health:** Levelling up health

**What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?:** All Essex

## **Digital accessibility**

**Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

## **Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics**

### **Age**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Disability - learning disability**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Disability - mental health issues**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Sex**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Gender reassignment**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Marriage / civil partnership**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

## **Pregnancy / maternity**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

## **Race**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

## **Religion / belief**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

## **Sexual orientation**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The Greater Essex HDRC will establish a research delivery capacity and a governance structure to oversee and direct this capacity towards issues that reflect local needs and priorities. However, specific focus of the HDRC's research programme has yet to be defined, it is therefore too early to judge the impact that the HDRC's work might have on specific groups.

## **Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts**

### **Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Children on Free School Meals**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Residents of Harlow**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

### **Residents of Jaywick and Clacton**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

### **Residents of Harwich**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

### **Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

### **Residents of Canvey Island**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

### **Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

### **Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The Greater Essex HDRC will focus its work on those areas where health outcomes are poorest - including coastal areas of Tendring, Harloe, Basildon , Canvey Island and estates in Colchester. However, the specific focus of the HDRC's research programme has yet to be defined, it is therefore too early to confidently judge that the HDRC's work will have more than a low level positive impact on residents of these places.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** As part of the HDRC's work we will establish a Citizens Involvement Forum, enabling members of the public, including those from hard-to-reach groups, to directly influence the HDRC's research and capability development work.

**How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:** As part of the HDRC's work we will establish a Citizens Involvement Forum, enabling members of the public, including those from hard-to-reach groups to directly influence the HDRC's research and capability development work.

## **Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups**

### **Refugees / asylum seekers**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Homeless / rough sleepers**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **People who experience drug and alcohol dependence**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Offenders / ex-offenders**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Victims of modern slavery**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Carers**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Looked after children / care leavers**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **People who are unemployed / economically inactive**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **People on low income**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Sex workers**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Ethnic minorities**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The Greater Essex HDRC will establish a research delivery capacity and a governance structure to oversee and direct this capacity towards issues that reflect local needs and priorities. However, the specific focus of the HDRC's research programme has yet to be defined, it is therefore too early to judge the impact that the HDRC's work might have on specific groups.

## **Equalities - Geographical Groups**

### **People living in areas of high deprivation**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **People living in rural or isolated areas**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

### **People living in coastal areas**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

## **People living in urban areas**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The Greater Essex HDRC will establish a research delivery capacity and a governance structure to oversee and direct this capacity towards issues that reflect local needs and priorities. However, specific focus of the HDRC's research programme has yet to be defined, it is therefore too early to judge the impact that the HDRC's work might have on specific groups.

## **Families**

**Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Families before, during and after couple separation**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The Greater Essex HDRC will establish a research delivery capacity and a governance structure to oversee and direct this capacity towards issues that reflect local needs and priorities. However, specific focus of the HDRC's research programme has yet to be defined, it is therefore too early to judge the impact that the HDRC's work might have on specific groups.

## **Crime & Disorder**

**Crime and disorder**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Re-offending**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Serious violence**

**Nature of impact:** Too early for impact to be known

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:**

The Greater Essex HDRC will establish a research delivery capacity and a governance structure to oversee and direct this capacity towards issues that reflect local needs and priorities. However, specific focus of the HDRC's research programme has yet to be defined, it is therefore too early to judge the impact that the HDRC's work might have on specific groups.

**(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:**

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:**

**How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:**

## Climate

**Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?:** No

**Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit):** No

**Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?:** No

**Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new:** No

## Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

**Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?:** No

## Details of person completing the form

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date ECIA completed:** 07/11/2023

**Name of person completing the ECIA:** Alastair Gordon

**Email address of person completing the ECIA:** alastair.gordon@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Economy, Investment and Public Health

**Your service area:** Policy Unit

**Your team:** Research and Citizen Insight

**Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** alastair.gordon@essex.gov.uk