

Closing the Gap

on health inequality in Northern Devon

Vision

Everyone in Northern Devon has the same opportunity to live a healthy life regardless of their financial or social status.

Mission

All people in Northern Devon can access what they need to live longer, healthier lives. Our system will be aligned and collaborate around the common goal of improving access, experience and outcomes for those most disadvantaged. This will be at the heart of everything we do in order to create systemic change for an equitable Northern Devon.

Definition

Core20 is the population living in the most deprived quintile identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). **PLUS** represents groups at risk of social exclusion, such as people with learning disabilities or communication barriers. Plus groups should be defined locally, by need.

Approach

A new approach is needed that recognises 3 fundamental realities that should be hard-wired when implementing any approach to addressing health inequalities

1 Endurance: inequality reduction needs a long-term programme balancing short, medium & long-term actions, & belief that brave changes are being built to last.

2 Disruption: making intervening upstream a mainstream model is not an add-on project but a re-invention of the status quo, with all the innovation this demands. It disrupts patterns of public service delivery that fail to tackle inequalities & which, in some cases, reinforces them.

3 Partnership: tackling inequalities is a multi-agency effort. It cannot be achieved by one part of the system alone. Central government, the NHS & local government need to work in close partnership, harnessing the contribution of the voluntary, statutory & private sectors.