

A quick-start guide to reducing health inequalities for Primary Care Networks



- 1. Don't wait until the duty kicks in, in 2021; start thinking about health inequalities now.** You need to start building local relationships now to make sure your PCN is fit for purpose to reduce health inequalities.
- 2. Involve your local communities and local partners in shaping your PCN** and the roles it will play in influencing and supporting the work of general practices. This will help you to build strong and trusting relationships with stakeholders who will help you deliver.
- 3. Make sure your PCN governance arrangements include people from diverse communities.** Meaningful representation from community members living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and from local partners who have experience of working with disadvantaged communities such as housing, social care, citizens advice and community pharmacy will hugely improve its capability.
- 4. Start now and share the process of developing your actions for tackling health inequalities with local partners.** You may want to invite trusted community partners to lead on some aspects where they have a passion and the energy to deliver. Consider health inequalities in how you deliver all the service specifications.
- 5. Support general practices to work with their communities as equal partners in pursuit of improved population health.** For example, by opening surgery waiting rooms to community groups to run activities such as music or knitting groups, displaying leaflets publicising community-led activities and supporting patients to develop their own ideas for starting new community-led activities.

If you would like to find out more about the work of NNHSA and how together we can help PCNs to deliver on health inequalities, please visit www.nhsalliance.org.