

# Submit an application to deliver a Policy Lab

## Organisation leading the project

Westminster City Council

## Lead Councillor or Officer

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## Job Title

Director of Policy & Projects

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## Project Title

Taking a Co-operative approach to tackling health inequalities

## How much funding are you applying for?

£ 20,000.00

## Summary of project idea (150 words max)

***'Inequalities are a matter of life and death, of health and sickness, of well-being and misery. The fact that in England today people in different social circumstances experience avoidable differences in health, well-being and length of life is, quite simply, unfair'*** - Professor Michael Marmot

More than 10 years on from the landmark Marmot Review the Health Foundation has found that for many groups in England, health and life expectancy are deteriorating and there are clear systematic inequalities in the groups for whom this is happening. Broadly speaking, poorer communities, women and those living in the North have experienced little or no improvement since 2010. There has been a slowdown in life expectancy of a duration not witnessed in England for 120 years and that has not been seen to the same extent across the rest of Europe or in most

other OECD countries and health has deteriorated for the population as a whole. In Westminster we have an 18 year life expectancy gap between our wealthiest and poorest communities.

Health inequality takes an unnecessary and unjust toll on the health and length of life of much of the population, particularly those who are more deprived, as we have described. There is a strong moral case for intervening and this is reason enough to act but health inequalities are also financially costly. There is also a strong financial case: the total cost associated nationally with inequality was £12.52 billion

Many councils have been innovating community-based approaches to the social determinants of health and have made significant system-wide changes to enable this to happen. This project is focussed on building on this learning across CCIN to identify how co-operative principles can catalyse system change and build community resources to provide a radical new model of community partnership to tackle the national injustice of health inequalities.

### Which other CCIN members will work on this project?

- Brent Council
- Manchester City Council
- Swindon Borough Council
- Stevenage Borough Council
- Kidsgrove Town Council Labour Group

### Provide a detailed budget of how you will spend the budget and whether you are bringing in other funding.

Two day on-site Change Maker CCIN takeover for 15 participants from CCIN member councils	£5,000
CCIN health inequalities speaker series open to all CCIN member councils with three webinars from CCIN members sharing learning on how they are using co-operative ways of working to tackle health inequalities	(£5,000 match funding from Westminster Council)
Report for CCIN setting out evidence of best practice in tackling health inequalities through co-operative ways of working	£10,000
CCIN roundtable health inequalities summit to present the report and share learning across the CCIN	£5,000

### What is your idea and how will you allocate the budget?

Many councils have been innovating community-based approaches to the social determinants of health and have made significant system-wide changes to enable this to happen. This project is focussed on building on this learning across CCIN to identify how co-operative principles can catalyse system change and build community resources to provide a radical new model of community partnership to tackle the national injustice of health inequalities.

We will have a particular focus on providing learning opportunities for newer members of the CCIN, sharing best practice and building capability across all layers of local government.

- We will run a two day on-site **Change Maker CCIN takeover** for 15 participants from CCIN member councils. The Change Maker programme is a two-day training course

which will bring together residents, councils, and community partners from across the CCIN to build relationships and create positive change in addressing health inequality. On this course participants will gain knowledge on co-operative principles way of working, and explore topics like co-production, justice, and creating systemic change; while building lasting relationships with each other. Following the course, CCIN members will have access to a wider community of practice, more relationships, and new tools for co-production.

- We will host an online **CCIN health inequalities speaker series / site visits** open to all CCIN member councils with three webinars from CCIN members sharing learning on how they are using co-operative ways of working to tackle health inequalities. This will share learning from all levels of local government and include a visit to the Healthy Hub in Stevenage as well as sharing with CCIN members international best practice via Westminster Council's membership of the International Health Forum, including learning from the City of Guelph in Canada and community health in Brazil.
- We will produce a **report bringing together the learning and providing a toolkit** for all CCIN member councils on making citizens equal partners in designing and commissioning evidence-based services that close the life expectancy gap. Through collaboration with our CCIN partner councils on the project, we will draw out the key insights from innovations nationally and internationally, and translate these into resources other councils can replicate across the country and use as a tool to tackle health inequalities. The cost of this will be £10,000.
- We will host a **CCIN roundtable health inequalities summit** which will bring together CCIN members the VCSE sector, and health to bring together the learning from the Change Makers training takeover, report and speaker series and share learning and innovation, with a specific focus on how co-operative principles can help build on local and community assets and achieve better outcomes in reducing health inequalities. The cost of this will £5,000

### What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?

The project will deliver a toolkit that is regularly used by CCIN member councils. If successful, this will result in measurable increase in the number of CCIN councils adopting co-operative approaches to tackling health inequalities and through the Change Maker training and speaker series creates opportunities for upskilling of council staff. We will further measure success by the number of CCIN members downloading/interacting with materials from the toolkit.

### How does your project support the aims and objectives of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network?

Reducing health inequalities is a matter of fairness and social justice a mission deeply rooted in the Co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equity and solidarity. We set out in detail below how the project supports the CCIN Statement of Values and Principles.

### How does your project support the CCIN Statement of Values and Principles?

The project will be entirely driven by the CCIN statement of values and principles:

- **Social Partnerships:** Fundamental to the project is developing new ways of working in social partnership between citizen's, communities, enterprises and councils based on a shared sense of responsibility to tackle health inequalities and close the life expectancy gap.
- **Co-production:** Central to this project is developing a model and toolkit that can be applied nationally to making citizens equal partners in designing and commissioning evidence-based services that close the life expectancy gap. Through collaboration with our CCIN partner councils on the project, we will draw out the key insights from local and international innovations and translate these into resources other councils can replicate across the country and use as a tool to tackle health inequalities.
- **Innovation:** Westminster is the first council to join the International Health Forum, and through this project we want to amplify and accelerate innovation in how different places across the world are working with local communities to drive positive change. For example, through this project we will bring the learning from the City of Guelph, in Ontario Canada where they have pioneered a radical new approach to putting communities at the heart of decision making to tackle systemic inequalities.
- **Learning:** Above all, this project is about learning, and through this project we will make our learning available to the whole CCIN through our final report and access to the change makers training as well as the speaker series.

### **How will you share your learning across the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?**

Above all, this project is about learning, and through this project we will make our learning available to the whole CCIN through our final report and access to the change makers training as well as the speaker series. We will have a particular focus on sharing learning among newer members of the CCIN.

### **I agree that the final report will clearly show the Co-operative Difference that this project will deliver.**

Yes

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