

Marmot report shows life expectancy for poor women is falling
Press Release, Totnes Constituency Labour Party, 1 March 2020

Ten years after the Coalition government accepted his last report, new findings from Health expert Sir Michael Marmot show that improvements in life expectancy in the UK have stalled for the first time in a century. Life expectancy for women with the lowest incomes is actually falling.

Incomes in our constituency are well below national average. According to new (2019) figures from the Government, some local wards suffer income deprivation, health and disability deprivation, and deprivation affecting older people. The 2020 Marmot Review finds that the damage to people's long-term health because of deprivation has been '*unprecedented*'. It points to rises in child poverty, the closure of Sure Start centres, service cuts and stagnant wages, all of which have increased the health gap between rich and poor.

Whilst cuts have hit the North hardest, Devon has suffered the closure of all but two Sure Start centres, cuts to hospital services, and a crisis in social care. Devon County Council reports that child poverty rates in the most deprived areas of the county are four times those in the least deprived. Young families, single parent households, and households with a disabled parent or child, are particularly likely to experience poverty. We now know that parental income influences children's health, which in turn affects long term health, and the capacity to learn and earn in later life.

Yvonne Atkinson, Labour's Shadow Portfolio Holder for Economic Development at Devon County Council, said: "*We ask Devon County Council to urgently review its strategy in the light of Marmot's further report, and to urge Devon's Tory MPs, and the government, to increase our local government funding back to 2010 levels. This government must urgently support economic development in Devon's most deprived areas, otherwise our county's children will not only be facing worse rates of life expectancy across the board, but also rates that are increasingly unequal.*"

Notes to editors

2010 Marmot report

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report.pdf>

2020 Marmot report

https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_full%20report.pdf

2019 index of deprivation dashboard

http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/ioid_index.html#

Contact

Liz Pole, Media Officer, Devon Campaign Forum, liz@lizforlabour.org 07485 194 779

Laurel Ellis, Women's Officer, Totnes Constituency CLP, elaurel@hotmail.co.uk