

## The Hewitt Review: A Barnardo's Briefing Paper

April 2023

### Summary

The Hewitt Review represents an ambitious vision for Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and the opportunity they represent for improved population health.

Barnardo's supports the Review's call to shift the focus from only treating illness to instead promoting health including through improved prevention and reduction of health inequalities.

We are pleased to see the Review acknowledge the role of services supporting children and young people, and the importance of investing in the early years to address health inequalities and wider population health. The Review also recognises the importance of including the voices of children and young people throughout ICS structures.

We welcome the Review's recommendations which would remove barriers to collaboration and effective partnership working with the voluntary sector and improve effective data sharing.

Barnardo's supports the recommendation to create a National Health Promotion Strategy and wider roles for national government in providing leadership in the shift towards improved population health.

### Context

The Hewitt Review, commissioned in Autumn 2022 aimed to undertake a rapid review of the governance and oversight of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) to support their development. The Review sought to understand and make recommendations on how to empower local leaders to improve population outcomes, the scope to reduce national targets, and the role of the CQC in ICS oversight.

Barnardo's experience as a service provider and organisation working with children and young people, families and ICS partners informed our evidence submission to the Hewitt Review and our response.

### ICSs, children, and young people.

In our evidence submission Barnardo's identified several barriers to ICSs fulfilling their mandate to improve population health and address health inequalities. We also identified several actions that national government and ICSs should take to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people, including reducing health inequalities and providing more effective preventative care and early intervention.

The Hewitt Review identifies several similar challenges and makes several detailed recommendations supported by Barnardo's.

### From focusing on illness to promoting health

The Hewitt Review identifies the importance of national leadership in supporting ICSs to improve population health and address health inequalities. The report makes several recommendations to strengthen national level guidance while giving ICSs a great degree of autonomy over local decision making. These include.

1. A national mission for health improvement, led by government and convening ICS leaders, Ministers and NHSE among others to create a National Strategy for Health Improvement.

Barnardo's welcomes this recommendation and would advocate for a focus on children and young people in ensuring health promotion is embedded throughout the life course to create effective and sustainable change.

2. The report identifies opportunities for ICSs to take the lead in shifting the dial from focusing on illness to population health and prevention. The Review recommends a collaborative approach to creating a definition of prevention that ICSs can use to benchmark their progress and allocate funding. It also recommends an increase in funding for prevention at an ICS level.

Barnardo's welcomes the tone and recommendations of the Hewitt Review in identifying the opportunities for ICSs to focus on prevention. The foundations of good health and opportunities to embed prevention begin in childhood, if not before. Children, young people, and families should be at the heart of prevention and their voices should be embedded in strategy, service design and evaluation.

3. The Hewitt Review recognises the role of children and young people in improving population health and reducing inequality. The Review highlights the importance of including the voices of children, young people, and families throughout ICS structures.

Barnardo's evidence submission highlighted the need to engage children and young people at every level of ICS structures and development. True engagement should begin with a shared vision of what health and wellbeing should look like for children and young people and the pathway to achieving this. Barnardo's was pleased to see children and young people singled out as a crucial group to engage with.

4. The Hewitt Review is clear that collaboration and partnership working within ICSs is currently limited by difficulties in services sharing and using data.

Barnardo's supports the Hewitt Reviews recommendations regarding improvement of the data workforce, improved collaboration and exploring ways of improving data flow with the voluntary sector.

In our work with ICSs, Barnardo's is coproducing solutions to ICSs challenges including maximising the voices of children and young people, reducing health

inequalities and improving data use. The work of the Health Equity Collaborative in delivering these priorities was highlighted by the Review.

#### **The Health Equity Collaborative**

Achieving health equity is about guaranteeing a basic state of health and wellbeing for all children, regardless of circumstance. Barnardo's and the Institute of Health Equity, led by Sir Michael Marmot, are partnering to shape the way Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) create health and address health inequalities among children and young people. We have invited three ICSs to be part of our Children and Young People's Health Equity Collaborative over the next three years. These three regions are:

- Birmingham and Solihull ICB
- Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
- South Yorkshire ICB

Together, the Collaborative's partners will be working together to develop three different workstreams, which are as follows:

- A data tool that will be used by ICSs to collect and monitor data on a specific health inequality in their area.
- Publish the Health Equity Framework; a framework on the process of developing the tool, how it can be practically used, and how its findings can be applied to create public health interventions.
- Develop an intervention in each ICS area, co-produced by children and young people, that uses the findings from the data tool to specifically work to reduce health inequity in a chosen community.

Outcomes of the programme will be overseen monitored by the projects strategic-level Health Equity Board, co-chaired by Sir Michael Marmot and Rukshana Kapasi, Director of Health at Barnardo's.

#### **About Barnardo's**

Barnardo's is the UK's largest national children's charity. In 2021/22, we reached 357,000 children, young people, parents, and carers through our 794 services and partnerships across the UK. Our goal is to achieve better outcomes for more children. To achieve this, we work with partners to build stronger families, safer childhoods, and positive futures.

For more information on our work with integrated care systems please contact [becky.rice@barnardo's.org.uk](mailto:becky.rice@barnardo's.org.uk)