

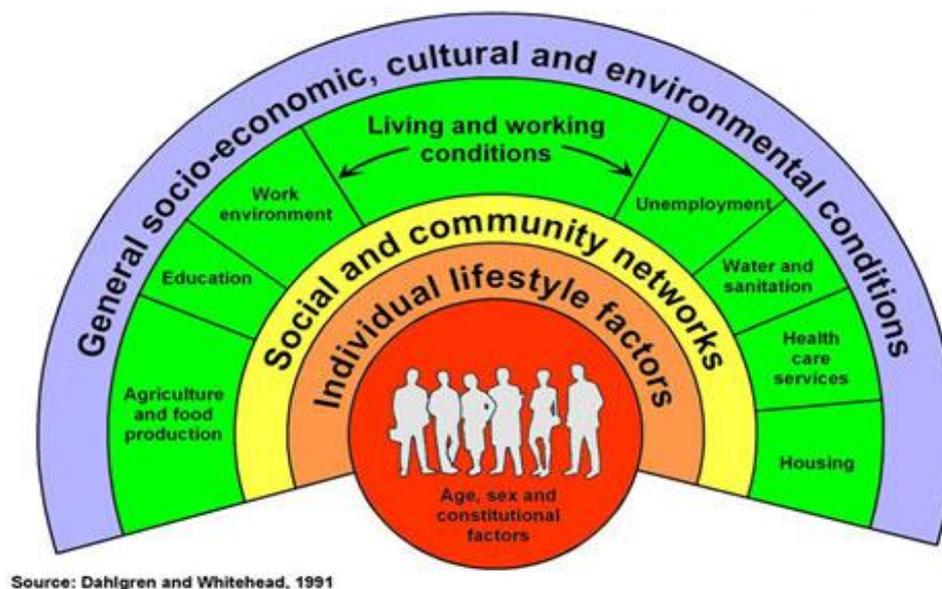
1.6 Health inequalities

Inequalities in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are closely associated with deprivation. People who live in areas of high deprivation, or who have worse socio-economic status, experience poorer health than those in more affluent areas. They experience greater levels of morbidity and premature mortality than the better off in society. The reasons for this health inequality are multi-factorial.

As well as resulting from poorer access to health care and poorer quality health services in more deprived areas, lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise, smoking, alcohol intake and occupation are also important. The wider determinants of health, as discussed in Fair Society, Healthy Lives¹, underpin the disadvantage that people experience.

A number of reports have highlighted inequalities in health, including the Black Report (1980)², Dahlgren and Whitehead's study in 1991 into strategies to promote social equity in health, the Independent Inquiry into Inequalities in Health chaired by Sir Donald Acheson in 1998³, and the Fair Society, Healthy Lives Review¹. Dahlgren and Whitehead developed a model that has been widely used to demonstrate the relationship between the various influences on health and wellbeing (Figure 1.6.1).

Figure 1.6.1: Policy 'rainbow' after Dahlgren and Whitehead



Health inequalities result from the wider determinants of health such as education, income, housing and employment; so measures of mortality and morbidity are not sufficient to demonstrate the range of issues that impact on people's lives. At every stage of the life course people who are less well-off experience worse health, and this includes poorer outcomes during pregnancy and broader wellbeing outcomes.

¹ <http://www.marmotreview.org/AssetLibrary/pdfs/Reports/FairSocietyHealthyLivesExecSummary.pdf>

² <http://www.sochealth.co.uk/Black/black.htm>

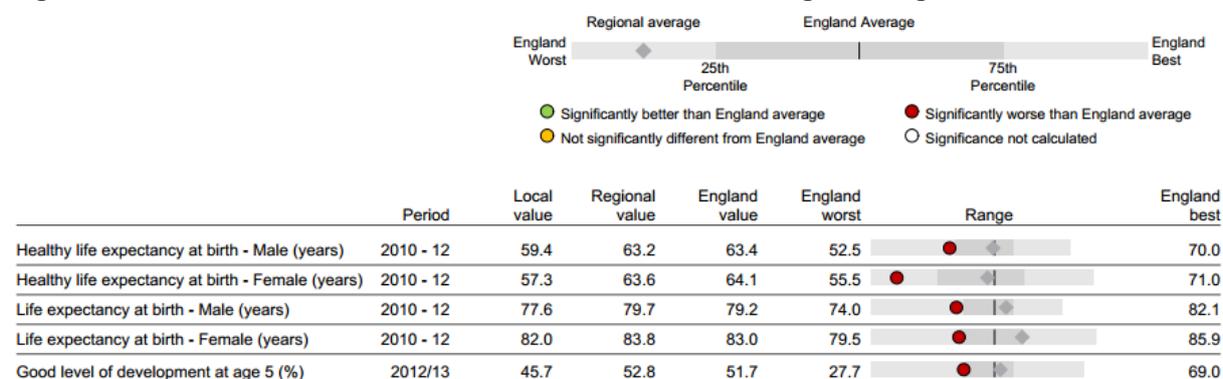
³ <http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/doh/ih/ih.htm>

A report from the London Health Commission in 2011⁴ reviewed health inequalities as they exist across London in terms of health outcomes, and also in terms of key indicators for the wider social determinants of health.

Six London boroughs, including Havering, were highlighted in the report as being better on every indicator than the England average. Barking and Dagenham was highlighted as being one of only two boroughs in London that was significantly worse than the England average for all of the indicators (Figure 1.6.2), the other being Islington.

An update of these seven indicators is included amongst the Marmot Indicators published in 2014, which show that Barking and Dagenham continues to be significantly worse than national averages for five of the indicators that the updated report continues to publish out of the original seven (Figure 1.6.2).

Figure 1.6.2: London Health Commission indicators for Barking and Dagenham, 2014



Source: LHO Marmot Indicators⁵

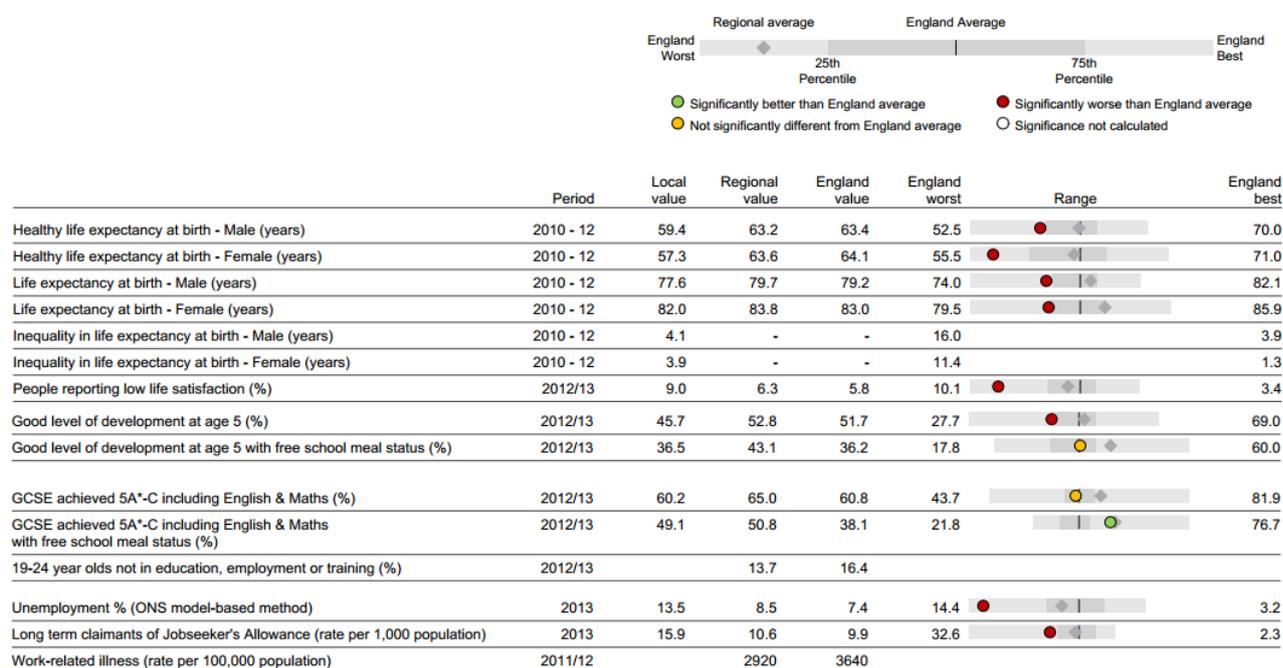
The Marmot Review team has published annual updates of their 2010 report (Figure 1.6.3). The relative position for Barking and Dagenham between 2012 and 2014 has not changed, with Barking and Dagenham significantly worse than national averages for the majority of indicators.

Previously, many of the Marmot Indicators used Slope Index of Inequality (SII) to measure performance. Using this method, Barking and Dagenham appeared to perform better in previous years, as this measures the inequality of the indicator throughout the population rather than comparing it to national averages. With 2014 measuring against a benchmark, the picture looks more negative for Barking and Dagenham, with only three indicators (of those where data is present) not worse than England statistically.

⁴ <http://www.london.gov.uk/lhc/docs/fair-london-healthy-londoners-160311.pdf>

⁵ http://www.lho.org.uk/lho_topics/National_Lead_Areas/Marmot/MarmotIndicators2014.aspx?

Figure 1.6.3: Marmot Indicators, Barking and Dagenham, 2014



Source: Marmot Indicators for Local Authorities in England, 2014⁶

⁶ http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/national_lead_areas/marmot/marmotindicators.aspx