

Healthy places external reference group: Call for expressions of interest

Calling individuals with an interest, expertise and/or experience in the role of local government in creating healthy places.

28 March 2023

We are looking for individuals to join a reference group helping to shape and inform our local government workstreams and ensure tangible outputs and tools that are innovative, relevant, and practical. The Health Foundation recognises the critical contribution local government makes to improving health and tackling inequalities and is keen to expand and build on existing work in this area to support the health in all policies agenda. We already have a [number of programmes supporting local and regional government to take action to improve health](#). Our other work includes [sponsoring a Municipal Journal award on cross-council approaches to health](#), working with [IFS to understand funding allocations in relation to levels of need](#), and recently publishing the well-received [Frameworks toolkit](#) supporting local areas to communicate about improving health.

We want to ensure our work is timely, relevant, and useful to the sector, and that the money we spend in supporting local government (including funding programmes of work and undertaking and commissioning research and analysis) is spent in a way that maximises benefits to health while reducing health inequalities. To support in this endeavour, we are looking for people who work in and with local government who are keen to shape and inform our work and maximise its impact.

Involvement in this group will offer an exciting opportunity to build networks, meet key thinkers and influencers in the local government space, and shape our outputs and impact.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for a diverse group of individuals with an interest and/or expertise in local government work to improve health and reduce inequalities.

Members might include (but will not be limited to) current or former councillors; senior or emerging leaders across local government e.g. housing, planning, transport, public health; and academics with a focus on local government. We want representation across the whole of the UK and able to bear the breadth of political thinking on this agenda.

This role might be of particular interest to individuals keen to a) Develop their strategic perspective on the health and inequalities agenda across the UK and b) Build networks across the different parts of local government with a shared interest in improving health and reducing inequalities.

We are particularly interested in applications from individuals who are from diverse backgrounds typically under-represented in policy making and delivery.

What will a role in the ERG entail?

Members will be invited to a series of innovative, energising away days where they will hear from experts across a range of topics. These meetings will offer a chance to network, share and learn from best practice, and steer future local government programmes and outputs at the Health Foundation. Sessions will be led by expert facilitators and will follow an interactive workshop format, with opportunities to co-design outputs, support synthesis of learning and insight from our funded work, and explore emerging trends, issues and implications for future work.

We anticipate a maximum of 4 meetings per year (2 face to face meetings with a one-day workshop and overnight stay in varying locations across the UK, plus 2 meetings held virtually). Reasonable expenses will be covered for transport, accommodation etc. and compensation for time will be offered to representatives from the VCS community.

Meetings will typically follow an interactive workshop format. They will offer a space for deep thought and reflection, with members enabling us to situate our knowledge and work in the context of local priorities. In addition, members may be invited to take part in ad-hoc work including site visits to ongoing programme locations.

Members will be asked to commit to a minimum of 1 year, with the opportunity for some to stay on for 2 years to support with business continuity.

Our selection criteria will be based on ensuring breadth and balance across the group. We are keen for representation from across the whole of the UK and perspectives from across the political spectrum. In addition, we are looking for applicants who are flexible and innovative, able to think beyond the needs of their institution and demonstrate systems thinking and leadership. We are particularly keen to hear from individuals who have not been involved in previous programmes of work at The Health Foundation.

How to apply

This is a light touch application process. We ask those wishing to apply to submit:

- A short written expression of interest (maximum 500 words) OR a 3 minute video outlining why they would like to be involved and what expertise and experience they would bring to the group. **See application form** for more information.
- A recent CV.

Please download the application form. Applications should be sent to ERG-EOI@health.org.uk no later than Friday 21 April.

Queries about the role can be emailed to ERG-EOI@health.org.uk.

About the Health Foundation

The Health Foundation is an independent charitable organisation working to build a healthier UK. We are funded by a large endowment, currently valued at over £1bn. Our aim is a healthier population, and while our focus was traditionally on supporting the provision of high-quality health and social care, in more recent years we have funded research and practice on improving the wider determinants of health. In 2021 this work constituted £16.6m of the £30m we spent and ranged from small, one-off sums to multi-year demonstration programmes and fellowships.