Minding the Gap is delighted to present the seventh of a series of events which re-visits the policy objectives highlighted in The Marmot Review – Fair Society, Healthy Lives. Where you are born, develop, live and die and how it can affect your health and life expectancy. This conference will focus on the interconnections between Community, Culture and Health Inequalities.

We need to recognise the important link between communities and health. This conference will explore the current theory, evidence and practice to better health and wellbeing and ask the question ‘what keeps us healthy?’ rather than ‘what makes us ill?’ The voice of community-focused organisations and partnerships and the relationship with policy and practice has never been as important. Whilst involving communities in service design and pathways is essential, each and every community is a collection of individuals with wide and varied life experiences, therefore, individual needs should be part of the discussion.

We also need to recognise the powerful contribution the arts and culture can make to health and wellbeing and we will be hearing from some of the main protagonists behind Hull, City of Culture 2017. Engagement with the arts helps to mitigate the effects of an adverse environment by influencing maternal nutrition, perinatal mental health and childhood development; shaping educational and employment opportunities and tackling chronic distress; enabling self-expression and empowerment, and overcoming loneliness and social isolation.

Health inequalities cannot be solved exclusively by public health alone. Collaboration between health professionals and those working in others – e.g. urban planners, environmental officers, architects, employers, housing authorities, educators, social workers and the community and voluntary sector - is essential.

The challenge is to release people’s capacity to engage by addressing the issues that lead to reluctance, disillusionment and disconnection. The conference will look at how policy makers and advisors can learn from the ‘past’ engage with the ‘present’ and build for the ‘future’.

**Keynote Speaker:**

*Professor Jennie Popay, Professor of Sociology and Public Health, Institute for Health Research, Lancaster University*

The conference will also include a number of workshops to discuss how policy is made and how initiatives could be commissioned more effectively.

**Who should attend the conference?**

The conference has been designed to support the following audience: Elected Members, Chief Executives, DsPH, DsCS, DsASS, members of Health and Wellbeing Boards, Local Authority Managers and Officers (planners, environmental, education, transport, housing etc.) along with CCGs and other health professionals, colleagues from the voluntary and community sector and Local Enterprise Partnerships

**Costs and booking**

This conference is free to delegates from partner organisations in the Yorkshire & Humber region and representatives of local voluntary sector organisations. However, we reserve the right to impose a charge of £30 where delegates do not attend and have not informed us of a cancellation. To book a place, please complete the attached booking form and return to: icopley@wakefield.gov.uk

**BOOKING FORM**

Please complete one form per delegate.

Please return to: Ian Copley, Minding the Gap, Wakefield One, Burton Street, Wakefield, WF1 2EB

Tel: 01924 305632

Email: icopley@wakefield.gov.uk

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**Facilities requested (please tick as appropriate):**

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| Vegetarian diet [ ]  | Vegan diet [ ]  | Large print [ ]  |
| Wheelchair access [ ]  | Induction loop [ ]  | Other (please specify)      |

* This event is free. However,we reserve the right to impose a charge of £30 where delegates do not attend and have not informed us of a cancellation. Delegates are welcome to send a substitute if they find they are unable to attend
* For further information contact; Ian Copley (Minding the Gap) icopley@wakefield.gov.uk