# Dealing with the crisis of health inequality – lessons from the UK

## Abstract

The pandemic has increased awareness of the social determinants of health and the impact of health inequality on the ability of societies to function. This talk uses the key findings from an ongoing Wellcome Trust funded project examining the prospective impact of Universal Basic Income (UBI) on adolescent mental health to illuminate the broader policymaking challenges associated with addressing health inequalities. Those findings include: almost half of UK adolescents reach clinical thresholds for anxiety and depression; levels of non-committed income and inequality are key social determinants; people are aware of the impact of social determinants and support treatment by income; UBI is affordable and politically feasible, with levels of support correlated with wealth and age. The conclusion is that there is no viable alternative to UBI as a multipurpose policy instrument capable of addressing contemporary global challenges.

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