

# Subject: Question and Answer Session with the GLA Health Team

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Health Committee</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>13 March 2024</b>
<b>Public Access:</b>	<b>This report will be considered in public</b>

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background for the Health Committee question and answer session with the Greater London Authority (GLA) Health Team.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests and notes the subsequent discussion.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 In 2018, the Mayor published his Health Inequalities Strategy (HIS).<sup>1</sup> This was updated in the HIS Implementation Plan 2021-24, which was published in December 2021.<sup>2</sup> In April 2023, the GLA published the 2022 annual report for the HIS, which provides the most recent update on progress in implementing the strategy.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mayor of London, [The London Health Inequalities Strategy](#), September 2018

<sup>2</sup> GLA, [Health Inequalities Strategy Implementation Plan 2021-24](#), 9 December 2021

<sup>3</sup> GLA, [Progress report 2022: Health Inequalities Strategy](#)

- 3.2 The HIS Implementation Plan contains six ‘key commitments’, which each fall under one of the five themes of the HIS. The themes and key commitments are:
- **Healthy Children:** To expand the School Superzones pilot programme across London with a target of 50 by 2024;
  - **Healthy Minds:** By 2025, London will have a quarter of a million wellbeing champions supporting Londoners where they live, work, learn and play;
  - **Healthy Places (1):** London will be a net zero carbon city by 2030 and will have the cleanest air of any major world city, meeting legal and health requirements by 2050. In the interim, the GLA aims to be on a path to zero pollution, meeting the World Health Organisation's interim target for PM2.5 (10ug/m3) by 2030;
  - **Healthy Places (2):** To lead the campaign to make London a Living Wage City, targeting accreditation of an additional 1,600 employers, lifting at least 48,000 people onto the real Living Wage and putting £635m in Londoners’ pay packets;
  - **Healthy Communities:** To support London action on tackling structural racism as a determinant of health – by organisations in their commitment to be anti-racist; and
  - **Healthy Living:** By 2041 all Londoners will do at least the twenty minutes of active travel each day that they need to stay healthy.<sup>4</sup>
- 3.3 In April 2022, the Mayor established a new GLA Group Public Health Unit (PHU). The PHU works across the GLA and the wider GLA Group, and aims “to ensure that prevention, resilience and tackling health inequalities are part of each organisation’s strategy and planning”.<sup>5</sup>
- 3.4 The Mayor also has an important leadership role in supporting public health and the delivery of health services in London. According to the GLA, the Mayor “brings together partners to protect and improve the health of the city. Although he is not responsible for health and care service delivery, the Mayor champions, challenges and collaborates with the NHS and other health partners on behalf of Londoners”.<sup>6</sup>

## 4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 This meeting will examine:
- The actions taken by the Mayor to implement the Health Inequalities Strategy Implementation Plan during the current Mayoral term, and in particular the six ‘key commitments’;
  - What impact these commitments have had in addressing health inequalities in London;
  - How the Mayor has allocated spending on health issues over the course of this Mayoral term;
  - What impact the GLA Group Public Health Unit has had since its formation in April 2022, and how it has contributed to a ‘health in all policies’ approach across the GLA Group;
  - How the Mayor has worked with partners and used his leadership role to promote good health and drive up standards in health services in London; and

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<sup>4</sup> GLA, [Health Inequalities Strategy Implementation Plan 2021-24](#), 9 December 2021

<sup>5</sup> GLA, [GLA Group Public Health Unit](#)

<sup>6</sup> Mayor of London, [Champion, challenge, collaborate](#)

- What progress has been made by the Mayor on some of the key issues that the Health Committee has investigated over the course of the Mayoral term.

4.2 Members will hold a public meeting with the following invited guests:

- Jazz Bhogal, Assistant Director of Health, Children and Young Londoners, GLA;
- Dr Tom Coffey OBE, Mayoral Health Advisor;
- Professor Kevin Fenton, Regional Director for London, Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, Regional Director of Public Health, NHS London, and Statutory Health Adviser to the GLA;
- Vicky Hobart, GLA Group Director of Public Health & Deputy Statutory Health Advisor; and
- Emma Pawson, Head of Health and Wellbeing / Programme Director for Free School Meals, GLA.

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

### List of appendices to this report:

None.

### Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

None.

### Contact Information

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