



London Health Commission

All decisions affecting communities should involve communities – particularly on the issue of health. Being healthy depends on many factors including income, employment, housing, education as well as health and care services. This poster shows which organisations make decisions on issues that affect our health. The different coloured tube lines represent key factors that affect health. Decision makers are shown as tube stations. The London Health Commission has produced this map to help local community groups engage with London's decision-makers to improve health.

Elizabeth Manero, Director, Health Link and Chair of the LHC Community Development Forum

London and Londoners: Making the links for health

Community development is an approach to building active, healthy and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about changing power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives.

(Based on definition from: Community Development Exchange) www.cdxk.org.uk



The London Health Commission is a partnership involving the organisations that make decisions that affect people's health in London.

- Our aim is to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of all Londoners by:
- Influencing policy makers, decision makers and practitioners.
 - Supporting local action.
 - Driving on joint programmes of work.

Community development was identified as a key approach in supporting and informing the London Health Strategy (2000) and remains a London Health Commission priority.

Why is community development important to the LHC?

- Community development is important to the LHC because it is a process that builds foundations for good health by:
- enabling people in communities to work together, to take action on the issues which they identify as affecting their lives
 - building individual and community confidence, coherence, self-esteem and sense of control

- building, strengthening and extending formal and informal social support networks within and between diverse communities.
- The LHC Community Development Forum: Providing a pan-London resource for local community development activities**
- Taking a 'Think London – act local' approach, its activities include:
- Promoting and spreading best practice in the use of community development as an important approach in reducing health inequalities.
 - Giving a voice to local community development initiatives at London and national level.
 - Exploring opportunities to encourage pan-London and local organisations and partnerships, including Local Strategic Partnerships to harness the power of community development for health.

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National agenda

Communities having more of a say

The Government's vision for communities is of strong, active, healthy and empowered communities – increasingly capable of doing things for themselves, defining the problems they face and then tackling them together. It is a vision in which everyone – no matter their age, race, faith or social background – has a sense of belonging and a stake in society. 'Together We Can' is the government's action plan to get citizens and public bodies working together to make life better. www.communities.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Renewal

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit aims to improve the quality of life for those living in the most disadvantaged areas. Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) unite each borough's major players from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to work together for the benefit of the whole community to drive forward change. The Neighbourhood Renewal agenda provides a commitment to creating sustainable communities – thriving, well run, active, inclusive and most importantly safe and healthy places to live. www.neighbourhood.gov.uk

Social Exclusion

The Social Exclusion Unit has led innovative thinking in addressing some of society's most difficult problems. It works closely with other parts of the government like the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit to tackle deprivation, working to create prosperous, inclusive and sustainable communities for the 21st century.

Healthy communities are also sustainable communities

The UK Strategy for sustainable development, 'Securing Our Future', sets out how Government, together with other bodies and communities, will try to ensure our environmental, social and economic activity are in balance and that we safeguard the future for our children and grandchildren. By protecting our environment, controlling pollution and safeguarding the planet's natural resources for future generations, we will ensure the health and well-being for all communities. www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

Patient and public involvement

All NHS organisations now have a legal duty to consult and involve patients and the public when planning services. Making major changes to existing services must include consultation with local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny committees. NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts all have a Patients' Forum that has legal powers to inspect services and make recommendations to the NHS based on their findings and patients' views. Patients forums can be contacted through the London office of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health, who oversee the Forums and recruit new members. www.cppih.org

Key Pan-London Organisations

- Association of London Government (ALG)**
Tel: 020 7934 9999 www.alg.gov.uk
- Black Londoners Forum**
Tel: 020 8709 9781 www.blacklondon.org.uk
- Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)**
Tel: 020 7939 0000 www.cre.gov.uk
- Disability Rights Commission**
Tel: 08457 622 633 www.drc-gb.org
- Environment Agency (Thames)**
Tel: 08708 506 506 www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/thames
- Government Office for London (GOL)**
Tel: 020 7217 3328 www.gos.gov.uk/gol
- Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD)**
Tel: 020 7022 1890 www.glad.org.uk
- Greater London Alcohol & Drugs Alliance (GLADA)**
Tel: 020 7983 4496 www.london.gov.uk/mayor/health/drugs_and_alcohol/glada.jsp
- Greater London Authority (GLA)**
Tel: 020 7983 4000 www.london.gov.uk
- Healthcare Commission**
Tel: 0845 601 3012 www.healthcarecommission.org.uk
- Health Protection Authority**
Tel: 020 7759 2791 www.hpa.org.uk/london/default.htm
- Homeless Link**
Tel: 020 7960 3010 www.homeless.org.uk
- Housing Corporation (London Office)**
Tel: 0845 230 7000 www.housingcorp.gov.uk
- King's Fund**
Tel: 020 7307 2400 www.kingsfund.org.uk
- Many communities living in deprived neighbourhoods, many black and Asian minority ethnic communities, disabled Londoners and faith groups experience worse health than the rest of London. These are serious health inequalities:
 - 20 of the UK's most deprived local authorities (out of 88) are in London.
 - 43% of London's children and over 1/3 of our pensioners live below the poverty line.
 - Long-term unemployment is higher than the national average.
 - Some communities also find it hard to get good quality local public services.
- Most communities living in deprived neighbourhoods, many black and Asian minority ethnic communities, disabled Londoners and faith groups experience worse health than the rest of London. These are serious health inequalities:
 - Infant mortality rates are more than twice as high in some London boroughs than others.
 - People born today in some boroughs can expect to live eight years longer than in other boroughs. Although only a few miles apart, travelling east from Westminster to Canning Town on the Jubilee line, each of the eight stops represents nearly one year of life expectancy lost.
 - Child pedestrians from the lowest income groups are four times more likely to be in an accident than children in the highest income group, children from an African-Caribbean background are especially at risk.
 - Nearly half of all cases of TB notified in England and Wales are from London.
 - Compulsory admissions under Mental Health Act in London are almost double the average rate for the rest of the country.

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Key to lines (Factors affecting health)			
	Cross-cutting influence		Employment, skills & enterprise
	Community safety & crime		Health & social services
	Education		Housing
	Environment		Transport
			Urban planning

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This poster is indicative and not intended to be a comprehensive description of all organisations in London and their role in health. Information was correct at time of going to print. The information is available in large print on request. Feedback welcome to health.commission@london.gov.uk