

# Moving forward on London's health

## *London Health Commission: growing in strength*

One year after the launch of the London Health Strategy, a wealth of work is underway by a partnership of London-wide bodies to deliver on its aims to improve the health of Londoners, and reduce the health inequalities that are evident across the capital.

And the London Health Commission, established last October by the new Mayor of London to take forward the Strategy and advise him in his responsibility to promote the health of Londoners, continues to grow in strength.

The Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Development Agency have recently joined the ranks of the Commission's sponsoring partners, pledging their support for the Strategy's principles and plans of action.

### Co-ordinated approach

The London Health Strategy was launched in March 2000. It was the product of a year's work, steered by representatives from a group of 39 London-wide bodies. They recognised that whilst there was a wealth of local work underway to improve health, what was missing was a co-ordinated London-wide approach that extended beyond the reach of the NHS.

1,500 people from over 300 organisations contributed to its development.

The final Strategy set out key priorities for action. One year on, what has been achieved? The following pages give a flavour of the progress by the partner organisations across London to date.



Photo: Ulrike Preuss/ Format

### London Health Commission sponsoring partners:

- Association of London Government,
- Government Office for London,
- Greater London Authority,
- King's Fund,
- London Development Agency,
- Metropolitan Police Authority,
- NHS Executive London,
- Social Services Inspectorate.



# The London Health Strategy

“Work with the London Health Commission has brought the London Development Agency into contact with a broad range of people in the health and regeneration spheres. This particularly helped during the consultation phases on the Mayor’s draft Economic Development Strategy when it provided a critical look at its proposals from a wider health perspective.”

Katharine Woods  
London Development Agency

The London Health Strategy identifies four priority areas for action to improve health – regeneration, inequalities, transport, and black and minority ethnic health – and four underpinning priorities for development work – health impact assessment, community development, the London Health Observatory and communications.

Partner organisations in the NHS, local and regional government, voluntary, community and private sectors have been making their contributions to implementing this Strategy. The following gives some highlights of progress so far. Further information, including details of publications and resources, is available at the London’s Health website – [www.londonhealth.gov.uk](http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk)

“The four priority areas - inequalities, regeneration, black and minority ethnic health, and transport all remain of key importance in London. Good progress has been made with getting these on the agenda of all the relevant organisations both London-wide and locally, and action is now following. There is still much more to do and we must all work together with the very wide range of partners to really make a difference in London.”

**Sue Atkinson**

Director of Public Health  
NHS Executive London

## Regeneration

Linking the health and regeneration agendas

- Several reports and a literature review published, and a conference held, helping to encourage and disseminate good practice.
- A network of health and regeneration practitioners set up and a learning programme in development based at the King’s Fund.
- A directory of contacts of regeneration leads from each health authority being developed.
- For reports and more information on the network contact Sue Lloyd-Evelyn at the King’s Fund on 020 7307 2675, e-mail: [s.lloyd-evelyn@kingsfund.org.uk](mailto:s.lloyd-evelyn@kingsfund.org.uk)
- A health impact assessment of the Mayor’s draft Economic Development Strategy conducted and submitted to the London Development Agency.

## Inequalities

Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups and narrowing the health gap, particularly targeting deprived families and children

- Tackling inequalities is a key objective within all the mayoral strategies being developed by the GLA.
- Work to embed action on health inequalities within Neighbourhood Renewal and Local Strategic Partnerships is underway; encouraging alignment of local health improvement programmes and community plans is a priority for this year.
- Targets for tackling inequalities have been set this year for the first time for the NHS.
- All health impact assessments of the Mayor’s strategies focus on inequalities.

## Black and minority ethnic health

Helping organisations to work for better health among black and minority ethnic communities

- Developing and disseminating data and good practice on black and minority ethnic health agreed as a priority for the London Health Observatory.
- NHS taking action to improve representation of black and minority ethnic groups on NHS Trust boards.
- The GLA committed to ensure that 25% of its employees are from black and minority ethnic groups.
- A report mapping advocacy services published and disseminated; £1 million committed by the King’s Fund for advocacy development work; and the NHS in London committed to developing a city-wide advocacy service.

# gy – work in progress

## Transport

Encouraging healthy transport policy and action across London

- ▶ A report on the evidence on health impacts of transport published and widely disseminated.
- ▶ Health impact assessment of the Mayor's draft Transport and Air Quality strategies completed and recommendations taken on board.
- ▶ A wide range of initiatives underway within London boroughs and the NHS to encourage cycling and walking and 'greening' of vehicles.
- ▶ Report looking at accident and injury data published, and further work in train on costs and effective prevention.
- ▶ For more information contact Liza Cragg at [liza.cragg@london.gov.uk](mailto:liza.cragg@london.gov.uk)

## Health Impact Assessment

Enabling policy and decision-makers to understand the potential effect on health of policies, programmes and projects

- ▶ The GLA committed to carrying out health impact assessments (HIAs) on its strategies. HIAs have been completed on draft Economic Development, Transport, Air Quality and Bio-diversity strategies.
- ▶ An HIA screening tool developed and currently being piloted with the GLA.
- ▶ A facilitator appointed to promote and support the use of HIA among London organisations, and to disseminate good practice. Contact Caron Bowen at [Caron.Bowen@lho.org.uk](mailto:Caron.Bowen@lho.org.uk)
- ▶ An HIA tool kit produced and available online at [www.londonshealth.gov.uk](http://www.londonshealth.gov.uk)

## Community Development

Supporting the development of effective approaches to community involvement and capacity building

*work underway:*

- ▶ to map resources for community development across key agencies;
- ▶ on a good practice seminar for senior managers; and
- ▶ to develop a common strategic approach to community development among partner organisations.
- ▶ For more information contact Jane Belman at [janeb@lvsc.org.uk](mailto:janeb@lvsc.org.uk)

## The London Health Observatory

Establishing this as a major new resource for monitoring and improving health in London

- ▶ The London Health Observatory (LHO) fully established earlier this year following preparatory work with stakeholders.
- ▶ Web-based information and data – NHS and non-NHS – now available on LHO website and via links to other sites. [www.lho.org.uk](http://www.lho.org.uk)
- ▶ Project underway on mapping national health inequalities targets across London to help local agencies plan their contributions.
- ▶ Joint work with local London agencies to support sickle cell / haemoglobinopathy programme.

Photo: Joanne O'Brien/Format



*“The London Health Commission's broadly-based membership helped to set the London Health Observatory's early priorities and continues to provide an invaluable reference group for our work supporting efforts to improve the health of Londoners and tackle health inequalities.”*

**Bobbie Jacobson**  
Director, London Health Observatory

## Members of the London Health Commission

Henry Abraham, Transport for London  
Sue Atkinson, NHS Executive London  
George Barlow, London Development Agency  
Bolaji Bank-Anthony, Race on the Agenda  
Ian Basnett, Camden & Islington Health Authority  
Jane Belman, London Voluntary Service Council  
Jonathan Bland, Social Enterprise London  
Mark Brangwyn, Association of London Government  
Chris Bull, London Borough of Southwark  
Jo Cleary, Social Services Inspectorate  
Neale Coleman, Greater London Authority  
Anna Coote, King's Fund  
Liza Cragg, Health Development Agency / Greater London Authority  
Deirdre Cunningham, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority  
Helen Davies, Social Services Inspectorate  
June Dawes, Housing Corporation  
Adrian Eddleston, King's College London  
Janet Fyle, Royal College of Midwives  
Clare Gerada, GP, Lambeth  
Andy Haines, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
Terry Hanafin, Audit Commission  
Elizabeth Howlett, Greater London Authority – Assembly  
Anthony Jacobson, Smoke Free London  
Bobbie Jacobson, London Health Observatory  
Lee Jasper, Greater London Authority  
Hermine Kelly-Hall, Commission for Race Equality  
Zarrina Kurtz, Freelance Public Health Consultant  
Cllr Bernadette Lappage, Association of London Government  
Elizabeth Manero, London Health Link  
Michael Marmot, University College London  
Geoff Martin, SERTUC  
Mary Ney, London Borough of Greenwich  
Christine Outram, Enfield & Haringey Health Authority  
Liz Meek, Government Office for London  
David Peters, London Business Board – London First  
Trevor Phillips, Greater London Authority – Assembly  
John Riordan, NW London Hospitals NHS Trust  
Steve Roberts, Metropolitan Police  
Hilary Samson-Barry, Greater London Authority  
Richard Smith, Transport for London  
Richard Sumray, Cultural Strategy Group for London  
Rashmi Varma, Confederation of Indian Organisations  
Melba Wilson, MIND  
Ansel Wong, Chair, London Health Commission

## The London Health Commission: adding value

Increasing the profile of health, engaging politicians, and bringing together key agencies as health 'partners' – many for the first time. These were some of the tangible benefits of the London Health Commission identified by an external evaluation and by sponsoring partners as the Commission took stock of its first six months of operation recently.

Also highlighted as strengths were the Commission's broad membership including key managers and professionals, and its work on health impact assessment. Its provision of a wider context for the work of partner agencies and a forum for identifying emerging issues across the sectors was also highly valued.

Hilary Samson-Barry of the GLA's Policy and Partnerships Directorate said: "The independent action-based evaluation has made valuable contributions to developing the Mayor's Strategies for London and to strengthening the work of the London Health Commission with the London Assembly.

"Challenges for the future include continuing to build on the commitment to health improvement in London and delivering on the London Health Strategy against a background of structural change within agencies, engaging effectively with local stakeholders, including citizens and communities, and responding to a demand for evidence for health impact assessments."

*"The London Health Commission can legitimately claim to be an inclusive partnership, backed by the Mayor, making its mark on the development of GLA policy and raising awareness about health and its determinants in London, about health inequalities, and about opportunities for health improvement through cross-sectoral working."*

**Anna Coote**

*Director of Public Health and Regeneration  
King's Fund*

### Finding out more

To find out more about the work of the London Health Commission, the London Health Strategy, and resources and research, see our website: [www.londonhealth.gov.uk](http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk) or [www.london.gov.uk/mayor/health\\_commission](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/health_commission)

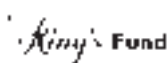
For more information, or to make a contribution to specific areas of work of the London Health

Commission, contact: Gus Wilson or Liza Cragg, London Health Commission, Greater London Authority, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY. Tel: 020 7983 4120. Email: [gus.wilson@london.gov.uk](mailto:gus.wilson@london.gov.uk)

For more information about the London Health Observatory and its work, visit its website at: [www.lho.org.uk](http://www.lho.org.uk)

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