

## **An Inclusive City for... Low-income Londoners**

### Introduction

Many of the barriers and challenges that people face are shared across different groups. As a consequence, the Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is structured not by protected characteristics or groups, but around the issues that Londoners face. We also know that many Londoners have complex identities and that some face multiple disadvantages.

We recognise that some issues affect some groups particularly badly, and that many stakeholders and community groups have a focus on working with particular groups. This reader's guide is intended to highlight the sections of the strategy that are particularly relevant to, or make specific reference to, **low-income Londoners**

The Mayor is already delivering a number of initiatives to address some of the objectives outlined in the strategy, including:

- **Travel costs:** The Mayor has already made travelling in London more affordable. He has frozen TfL fares and introduced a new Hopper fare that allows customers to make unlimited bus or tram transfers in the hour. He has also committed to freezing all existing travel concessions.
- **Affordable homes:** The Mayor's Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) will see £3.15 billion invested to support 90,000 more affordable homes. And the new draft London Plan will provide a fast-track route through planning for developments on public sector or industrial land that provide 50 per cent affordable housing, and others that provide 35 per cent. The bulk of the Mayor's investment through the AHP will support either London Affordable Rent, London Living Rent or London Shared Ownership homes.
- **Early Years Hubs:** The Mayor is funding three Early Years Hubs to develop area-based activity to support children and parents. A key focus for hubs will be increasing the take-up of the entitlement to 15 hours of free early years provision for disadvantaged two-year-olds.

The following sections outline the evidence-based objectives in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy that will inform the Mayor's work on issues affecting low-income Londoners:

**Chapter 1** covers the Mayor's efforts to make London a great city to live in.

- Section 1.1 (page 19) outlines our strategic objectives to increase the supply of genuinely affordable homes; increase affordability for private renters; protect Londoners living in social housing; and make preventing homelessness a priority. This is informed by evidence that people on low incomes struggle to meet housing costs – particularly in the private rental sector - and are more likely to live in social housing, and that the groups at greater risk of losing their homes are more likely to be on low incomes and living in poverty.
- Section 1.2 (page 33) outlines our strategic objective to regenerate the most deprived areas in London in response to evidence that people on low incomes often live in areas with the highest levels of multiple deprivation.
- Section 1.3 (page 37) outlines our strategic objectives to promote the use of inclusive design and involve communities in the development of their neighbourhoods. This is based on

evidence that some groups more likely to be on low incomes face barriers to using public spaces and are more likely to live in areas which have been identified for redevelopment.

- Section 1.4 (page 44) outlines our strategic objectives to ensure that actions to mitigate air pollution are targeted at the groups it affects most, and that an inclusive approach is taken to tackling fuel poverty and improving green spaces. This is informed by evidence that low-income Londoners are more likely to be exposed to high levels of air pollution and are less likely to be able to afford their energy bills or have access to green spaces.

**Chapter 2** outlines the Mayor's efforts to tackle inequalities in childhood experiences.

- Section 2.1 (page 50) outlines our strategic objective to help address the root causes of child poverty – evidence suggests that the high rates of child poverty in London are being driven by low or reduced incomes set against high or increasing costs.
- Section 2.2 (page 55) outlines our strategic objective to help those children most likely to suffer from physical or mental health issues to access treatment and support – children living in areas of higher deprivation are more likely to be overweight or obese.
- Section 2.3 (page 60) outlines our strategic objective to improve access to childcare and early years provision - some low-income families suffer from a lack of appropriate childcare and are less likely to use free early education.
- Section 2.4 (page 63) outlines our strategic objectives to improve educational attainment and exclusion rates, and create more opportunities for young people to access wider employment opportunities. This is based on evidence that children from low-income families are less likely to do well at school and face barriers in achieving career outcomes.

**Chapter 3** outlines the Mayor's efforts to make London the best city in the world to work and do business in.

- Section 3.1 (page 71) outlines our strategic objective to help increase the number and diversity of people getting the skills they need – people from low-income backgrounds are less likely to complete higher education courses or attain high-level skills.
- Section 3.2 (page 78) outlines our strategic objective to help as many Londoners as possible to benefit from employment opportunities. This is in response to evidence that some people on low incomes are unable to work – particularly unemployed mothers and homeless people - due to associated costs such as childcare and transport.
- Section 3.3 (page 87) outlines our strategic objectives to help ensure London's employers have fair and inclusive employment practices and increase the diversity of workforces in vital sectors. This is in response to evidence that part-time workers are more likely to suffer low pay and people from low-income backgrounds are underrepresented in STEM and creative professions.

**Chapter 4** covers the Mayor's work to make London an easier, cheaper and safer city to travel around.

- Section 4.1 (page 97) outlines our strategic objective to address barriers to walking and cycling – low-income Londoners are significantly less likely to cycle than those from higher socio-economic groups.
- Section 4.2 (page 102) outlines our strategic objective to make transport more affordable as a response to evidence that groups more likely to be on low-incomes struggle with transport costs.

**Chapter 5** outlines the Mayor's work to help Londoners lead safe, healthy, fulfilling lives.

- Section 5.2 (page 122) outlines our strategic objective to help address health inequalities, and to reduce the stigma attached to mental ill-health. This is informed by evidence that low-income Londoners have worse health outcomes and are at higher risk of food poverty; and that people living in poverty are more likely to experience mental ill-health.
- Section 5.3 (page 130) outlines our strategic objective to reduce the barriers that prevent people from volunteering – including the associated costs – such as travel – which put some people on low incomes off.
- Section 5.4 (page 137) outlines our strategic objectives to help more Londoners engage with the city's culture and sustain cultural spaces. This is in response to evidence that the cost of admissions and the rising price of workspaces are excluding low-income Londoners from participating.