

Health in London

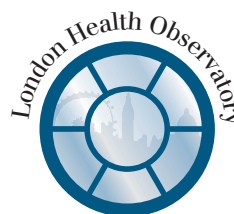
2002 review of the London Health Strategy high-level indicators



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GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY



Report prepared on behalf of the
London Health Commission
by the Greater London Authority
in partnership with the
London Health Observatory



About the report

Aims of the report

- ▶ To describe some of the factors that have an important influence on health in London, known as 'the determinants of health'.
- ▶ To provide information on health and the determinants of health in a form that will support discussion and action by agencies at local, regional and national level.
- ▶ To map and describe changes over time in the ten indicators included in the London Health Strategy.
- ▶ To identify important inequalities in health and the determinants of health in London, and to track trends in inequalities.
- ▶ To make recommendations where appropriate.

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March 2002

ISBN: 1-904340-00-8

Published by:
London Health Commission
Romney House
43 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3PY
www.londonhealth.gov.uk

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Design: Column Communications

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the large number of people who contributed to the development of the review.

Particular thanks are due to:

Sue Atkinson, NHS London Regional Office

Mark Brangwyn, Association of London Government

Graham Cobbing, Transport for London

John Devenport, Transport for London

Vicky Hobart, NHS London Regional Office

Eileen Howes, Greater London Authority

David Hutchinson, Greater London Authority

Chris Jarvis, Greater London Authority

Gill Lawton, Greater London Authority

Erica Lewis, London Development Agency

Rob Lewis, Greater London Authority

Patrick McVeigh, London Development Agency

Jenny Mindell, London Health Observatory

Michael Minors, Greater London Authority

Lesley Mountford, Greater London Authority

Karen Osborne, Greater London Authority

Paul Plant, NHS London Regional Office

Giovanna Maria Polato, London Health Observatory

Lucy Sadler, Greater London Authority

Hilary Samson-Barry, Cabinet Office

Lorna Spence, Greater London Authority

David Vowles, Greater London Authority

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Foreword

In 2000, I set up the independent London Health Commission, a body with more than 40 members from a wide range of backgrounds, to drive forward health improvement in priority areas across London. The members of the Commission bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise on health and well-being in London and share a commitment to work together to improve the health of individuals and communities across the capital.

One of the key tasks of the London Health Commission is to take forward the London Health Strategy. The London Health Strategy is a plan for collective action across the capital that will strengthen work being done locally in key areas that influence our health and well-being. This report is an update on the high-level indicators included in the London Health Strategy that support this work.

The report has been developed on behalf of the London Health Commission by the Greater London Authority working in partnership with the London Health Observatory – a body with a crucial role to play in monitoring health in London. The review makes a major contribution to rebuilding the social map of London. In particular, the report helps us gain important insights into patterns of health and well-being across London as a whole and borough by borough. This will help policy makers make more informed judgements about trends in inequalities in health and develop more appropriate policies to deal with them. It also means that we can work together to take action based on evidence of what is happening on the ground.

Two things stand out from the experience of the London Health Commission and from this report. The first is that people working at local level – in regeneration projects, for example – are making a difference to the experience and expectations of their communities. The second is that inequalities – in particular, those related to ethnicity – continue to stand out starkly: London is a much healthier place for some than for others.

I commend this report to local partnerships tackling health inequalities. It is an important source of information about the relationship between health determinants and health outcomes. And it offers significant insights into how different parts of London and different groups of Londoners fare in accessing life opportunities that impact on health.

The work to bring about change is vitally important and ongoing. I will support it in any way that I can.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ken Livingstone'.

Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London