

LONDON

HEALTH COMMISSION

WHAT IS THE LONDON HEALTH COMMISSION?

The London Health Commission (LHC) is an independent, high level, strategic partnership that seeks to improve the well-being of all Londoners and reduce inequalities in health. The LHC promotes a coordinated approach to the factors that influence health in London, and does this by

- Influencing key policy makers and practitioners
- Supporting Local Action
- Driving on specific, priority issues through joint programmes of work

Set up by the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, in October 2000, the Commission was created from a partnership of organisations that came together in May 1999 to develop a strategy to improve the health of Londoners. Key sponsoring partners, who make up the Executive Group of the Commission include: Greater London Authority, Kings Fund, Regional Public Health Group, Association of London Government, Government Office for London.

The Commission's work is focussed on specific priority areas. Current priorities are:

Priority Issues	Priority Groups	Priority Approaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Inequalities & the wider determinants • <i>Smoke Free London</i> 	Black and minority ethnic communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people • Disabled Londoners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Planning and Regeneration - Health Impact Assessment • Community development - Supporting local action

The Commission applies the following core principles in fulfilling its purpose:

- Active engagement and inclusion of citizens, communities and key constituencies;
- Promoting partnership working that is inclusive, sharing, visible and committed;
- Expanding and sharing information, ideas and learning about health, the determinants of health and other relevant issues;
- Commitment to equity and diversity.

Membership

The London Health Commission is made up of 26 Commissioners and an extensive network of 'Advisors'. Commissioners are drawn from key people and organisations who have a significant span of 'influence' over policy and practice in London; nominated by, and representing, London focussed organisations that can drive change that will impact on health inequalities and the wider determinants of health across London.

How the Commission works

It meets quarterly and agrees an annual work programme laying out priorities and activities to fulfil its purpose within that year. This programme is informed by the annual 'Health in London' report, issues identified by LHC members and consultation with stakeholders.

The Executive Group is responsible for the delivery of the London Health Commission Programme, reporting progress to the LHC. This Executive Group is made up of the Chair, Deputy Chair and the Commission's key sponsoring agencies. The LHC and its Executive Group are supported by a small secretariat, which is directed by the Chair and resourced by members of the Executive.

The Commission's work is taken forward by a number of 'Advisory/Development' Forums, which enable wider representation therefore ensuring equity, diversity and inclusiveness in the work of the Commission. The Commission holds an annual standing conference which brings together all Commissioners and Advisors to review progress and impact of the Commission and forward plan for the development of the partnership and work programme.

Examples of Commission Work:

The Big Smoke Debate

The London Health Commission invited Londoners to voice their opinions on smoking in public places by organising the Big Smoke Debate. This involved a publicity campaign that offered two ways to register opinions between October and December 2003: via the www.thebigsmokedebate.com website and by calling a freephone telephone line.

For further information and to view the results please visit www.thebigsmokedebate.com. The Big Smoke Debate has been used as a template for similar campaigns in other regions, for example Smoke Free North West.

Health Impact Assessments

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is an approach to ensure that decision-making at all levels considers the potential impacts on health and health inequalities, and identifies actions that can enhance positive effects and reduce or eliminate negative effects. The Commission is committed to undertaking HIA to support the development of effective policy and practice in London. The LHC has used HIA to support the development of the following Mayor of London's strategies: [Air Quality](#), [Biodiversity](#), [Children and Young People](#), [Culture](#), [Economic Development](#), [Energy](#), [Noise](#), [Transport](#), [Spatial Development - The London Plan](#), [Waste](#). **For copies of the above HIA's please see the publications section of our website.**

London Works for Better Health

'London Works for Better Health' is helping to take forward our regeneration priority.

This programme aims to develop and implement strategies to improve health and reduce health inequalities through:

- employment and enterprise;
- promoting and supporting healthy and sustainable employment practices;
- encouraging partnership-working in planning and delivery of health and employment initiatives.

For more information:

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To receive email updates about our work send your details to Gus Wilson at the address above.