

Policy Briefing: Better Health for London

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Original Document: http://www.londonhealthcommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/London-Health-Commission_Better-Health-for-London.pdf

Purpose of document

The London Health Commission is an independent inquiry that was set up by the Mayor of London. It is chaired by Professor the Lord Darzi who was appointed by the Mayor. For a year, the chair led a panel of experts and involved thousands of people to examine how London's health and healthcare can be improved to benefit the health and wellbeing of its people. They developed a plan of action which forms part of a major public health drive to make London the healthiest major global city within the next 10 years. This is discussed in the Commission's report.

Summary of contents

The report describes a collaborative approach to improving public health. This includes 64 recommendations grouped into five themes including: better health for all; better health for London's children; better care; maximising science, discovery and innovation; and making it happen. The report also outlines 10 aspirations for improving health and care which are supported by the list of recommendations. It consists of measurable ambitions to keep action focused and judge progress.

Summary of outcomes

If the Commission is to achieve their vision in the next decade, there must be collaborative working and significant input from everyone who has a responsibility to health including local and regional government, the NHS, employers, transport, schools, charities, voluntary groups and especially from the people themselves.

Summary of recommendations

- Introducing measures that tackle the threats posed by major risk factors for poor health including tobacco, alcohol, obesity, lack of exercise and pollution.
- Developing new models of care to support parents of vulnerable children; tighter controls on the availability of fast food outlets near schools; and addressing variations in quality of care.
- £1billion of investment to modernise, improve and widen the range of services, and use funds to help bring physical, mental and social care services together.
- Make the best use of science and technology to support the developments of modern healthcare.
- Appoint a health commissioner for London to personally lead a team to push along the necessary changes and also to coordinate the work of the councils, clinical commissioning groups and the NHS.

Further information and resources

Executive summary <http://www.londonhealthcommission.org.uk/better-health-london-interactive-summary-report/>

NHS Confederation - LHC and 2015 Challenge Manifesto

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/media-centre/2014/10/london-health-commission-steps-up-to-the-2015-challenge-politicians-need-to-respond>

The London Funders - Upcoming April 2015 event about commission

<http://www.londonfunders.org.uk/london-health-commission>

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