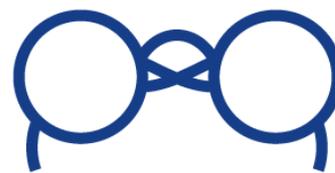


In focus

Healthy London Partnership



A City for All Londoners

10 November 2016 – Source: The Mayor of London and the London Assembly

The Greater London Authority released a document on 24 October outlining the ambitions that Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, has for the capital. *A City for All Londoners* aims to set the tone for the Mayor's strategies in terms of the challenges London faces nowadays and in the future. It includes remarks about health in the city, the NHS and the Mayor's role in the health economy.

Summary

The document is the Mayor's statement of intent for London. It sets out a direction of travel that he will expand on in detailed strategies over the coming months and years. Future strategies anticipated are on land use and growth, transport, housing, economic development, the environment, policing and crime, culture and health inequalities.

The Mayor states clearly that London needs to find ways to improve residents' health. In terms of health, he sees difficulties as the exceptional population growth; changing lifestyles and increasing financial pressure on the NHS. Health and the NHS are addressed in several areas in the report.

The Mayor's key messages about the health and care and London's NHS

Part 1: Accommodating growth

- Green space can affect Londoner's physical and mental health. The Mayor aims at protecting and improving London's environment through maintaining green space.
- As London grows, it must remain green and healthy and be resilient to the impacts of climate change. Green roofs and walls are being planned into new developments to mitigate flood risk, while maintaining and enhancing the extensive green spaces that set London apart from many comparable cities.
- Part of the Mayor's Healthy Streets plan is to encourage Londoners to take more trips on foot or by bike.

Part 2: Housing

- Unaffordable housing is a key issue in London. It is one of the reasons for high rates of homelessness and is a factor in attracting and keeping NHS workers in London.
- Housing problems have serious impact impacts. After accounting for housing costs, London has the highest levels of poverty in the country. This has grave consequences for people's health, for their life chances and for social integration.

- The number of rough sleepers has more than doubled in the last eight years. To address this problem', a new 'No Nights Sleeping Rough Taskforce', in partnership with boroughs, charities and other key players, is to be set up. The Taskforce aims to help people who are sleeping rough and, crucially, to prevent people ending up on the street in the first place.
- The Mayor wants to influence other public-sector bodies, for example central-government departments and Network Rail, to develop housing wherever possible. He is working closely with the NHS on plans to unlock surplus sites for housing and to enable the release of capital for reinvestment in their services.

Part 3: Economy

- A good business environment relies on a healthy and clean London.
- The Mayor intends to improve digital connectivity in London, establishing it firmly as a key utility, central to planning and new development, and working with stakeholders to address areas where specific improvements are needed.
- There is a plan to appoint London's first Chief Digital Officer to oversee growth in this sector and lead on digital inclusion across the city.

Part 4: Environment, transport and public space

- Almost 9,500 Londoners die because of London's poor air quality each year and older residents or people with lung diseases are particularly vulnerable. Deprived parts of London are more likely to be affected by air pollution which increases health inequalities in the city.
- As the city develops to accommodate more people, jobs and activity, it is vital both for the health and wellbeing of Londoners and business competitiveness to protect and enhance the environment. The Mayor's environmental objectives cover two key areas – making the city healthy, resilient and fair, and making it resource efficient, low carbon and green, specifically:
 - Air quality at safe levels as soon as possible; 25 per cent of schools in London are in areas with unhealthily high levels of air pollution.
 - London to be zero carbon by 2050; introducing measures for cleaner, more efficient energy production and use.
- The Mayor wants the city to be green, healthy and more attractive – reduce traffic and encourage cycling and walking on healthy streets. Through the 'Healthy Streets' plan the he aims to reduce traffic, pollution and noise, and create more attractive, accessible and people-friendly streets, where everyone can be physically active, and ultimately improve people's health.

Part 5: A city for all Londoners

- London is not the healthiest city in the world. It ranks seventh out of 14 comparable cities.

- The Mayor is taking actions to design and run the city that will help, for example, improving air quality, encouraging higher pay, providing better housing and delivering healthy streets.
- In terms of improving Londoners' health, NHS provision is crucial. Population and lifestyle changes as well as increasing financial pressure on the NHS will have an impact on health and care in London.
- There is a risk of fragmentation in a system of over 5000 providers of NHS services in London, from local pharmacies to specialist hospital trusts and a wide array of social care providers. While the NHS is outside the Mayor's control, there is a clear leadership opportunity to bring together healthcare providers, commissioners and local authorities.
- Health inequalities are of particular concern in the capital. There is a gap of in healthy life expectancy of more than 15 years between different parts of the city. To tackle this, the Mayor aims at implementing a strategy that includes policies in areas such as housing, the environment, transport and active travel, planning and the economy.
- In terms of mental health, the Mayor aims to end stigma and discrimination of mental health. This can be achieved through collaborative work with the health and care system, schools, workplaces and communities.
- Collaboration we will be key to improving the quality of care that Londoners receive.

The Mayor's direct powers

Although the Mayor does not have direct powers in terms of health initiatives by statute, he aims at uniting NHS organisations and local authorities around a shared vision of how best to tackle London's health inequalities. Through collaboration, he aims at improving Londoners' care. Calling on Government to devolve more powers and resources to the city of London will help to achieve this goal as well.

- ➔ **Download the full report “A City for All Londoners” from the Mayor of London and the London Assembly's website:**
[A City for All Londoners](#)

If hyperlinks are no longer active, please refer to the source organisation's website.