

17 January 2023

Dear Colleague

Collaborating effectively with communities is crucial to achieving health outcomes and health equity. It sits at the heart of achieving our strategic ambitions, supporting residents through the cost of living crisis and reducing health inequalities. Covid-19 Champions programmes across London showed how important – and possible – it is for Councils, the NHS and others to engage directly, openly and regularly with communities. Champions programmes have transformed the way Councils, the NHS and others engage with and listen to communities now and in the future.

The priorities and challenges facing us all today commit health partners to outcomes that require us to continue to develop and innovate in how we engage, collectively, with all communities across London.

The two-way, on-going dialogue that we achieved in COVID-19 Champions needs to be one of the ways that communities and statutory health partners come together to address inequalities.

London's health partners are launching the **Community Champions Development Programme**. Together, the Association of Directors of Public Health London (ADPH), Office of Health Improvement and Disparities London (OHID), UK Health Security Agency London (UKHSA), Greater London Assembly (GLA) and London Councils are **inviting colleagues from each London Council and London NHS ICB to come together again**.

The programme is open to anyone who is **leading and / or delivering two-way conversations between local government, the NHS and communities**. The programme will include bi-monthly action learning sets, input from experts on areas of practice, quarterly listening programmes with us and our colleagues, investment in how to monitor and evidence the impact of these types of programmes and more. The programme builds on what we've learned from the past two years of the COVID-19 Champions Co-ordinators programme. It continues the transformational journey we are on as we realise the old saying that 'it takes a village' to achieve good health and good life.

Please nominate colleagues from across your system and Local and ICB level to participate. The time commitment is approximately 2 hours a month. To nominate please email jeva.smilingyte@newham.gov.uk.

Community Champions: what next and lessons learned Event 22 February 10-11.30

On 22 Feb colleagues from across London will come together to reflect on how Community Champions programmes contribute to outcomes. We will consider lessons from the COVID-19 Champions programmes, the regional and ICB support for these and what more we can do. We will launch **Community Champions: Lessons from COVID-19**, a unique publication bringing together stories from each of the Champions programmes across London, drawing out key themes and insights that sit across all of them. Please join us to consider the lessons and celebrate the work to date **22 Feb 2023 10:00 – 11:30 at Friends House near Euston Station or virtually**. Sign up to attend

in-person <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-19-champions-programme-compendium-seminar-in-person-tickets-477357227317> , or **online** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-covid-19-champions-programme-compendium-seminar-online-tickets-488579974857>.

Do share the event with others.

Our commitment:

As system leaders we remain committed to on-going two way dialogue with residents. We know from the past few years how critical this is, how much it has influenced what happens at local, regional and National level.

We look forward to continuing to learn and improve together.

Kind regards



Dr Tom Coffey, OBE
Senior Health Advisor to the Mayor of London



Martin Machray RN
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Professor Kevin Fenton CBE PrFPH PhD
Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (London), NHS England – London, Advisor to Mayor of London, GLA and London Assembly



Dr Yvonne Young
UK Health Security Agency



Ruth Hutt and Jason Strelitz
Co-Chairs ADPH London