



Office for Health
Improvement
& Disparities

The London Public Health Forum Presents:

Prioritising Babies, Children and Young People: maximising children's health and wellbeing at a time of system reorganisation and turbulence

Wednesday 8th July
10.00 – 11.30am

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In partnership with:



Office for Health
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Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
5 mins	Welcome from Chair; Professor Kevin Fenton, Regional Director, Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) London
35 mins	Keynote address followed by a fireside chat; Professor Mitch Blair The importance of early years and child public health, lessons from other countries, and the potential of service integration including neighbourhood teams.
20 mins	Presentation - Prioritising BCYP through the London Health Improvement Plan; Alice Walker, GLA
25 mins	Panel discussion followed by Q&A with BCYP system leaders facilitated by; Professor Kevin Fenton, RDPH, OHIDL Exploring system priorities and challenges for babies, children and young people in London, how these translate into delivery, and where greater alignment and integration is needed across the system.
5 mins	Session close; Professor Kevin Fenton, RDPH, OHIDL

Objectives

This London Public Health Forum brings together public health leaders, practitioners, and their teams from across London to:

- Understand national and regional priorities for improving the health of babies, children and young people (BCYP), and how these are being delivered across London
- Explore the evidence and emerging innovation in improving maternity and BCYP health across systems, and why this remains a public health priority
- Clarify how improving BCYP health connects to the wider public health agenda, including prevention, neighbourhood approaches and reducing health inequalities
- Identify practical actions to strengthen system alignment and delivery for BCYP across London

Keynote Address

Professor Mitch Blair

London Health Improvement Plan

Alice Walker

London Health Improvement Plan

BCYP Public Health Forum

8 July 2026





Draft London Health Improvement Plan

Our mission:

- To help Londoners live longer, healthier and more independent lives, and to close the unfair gaps in health between our communities.

We will do this by acting together where London-wide action can accelerate prevention, reduce inequalities and improve value by investing in prevention.

Once for London approach:

- The **test for every initiative** within this Plan is simple:

"Does acting together across London create greater impact, improve equity, accelerate progress or deliver better value than acting separately?"

Where the answer is yes, London should act as one city.



Priority areas

1

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH



The early years are critical. We will strengthen support for families by connecting maternity, early years, housing, family support and community assets.

2

MENTAL HEALTH



Mental health shapes how Londoners live, learn, work and connect. We will provide earlier, practical support to help people stay connected to opportunity and each other.

3

HEART HEALTH



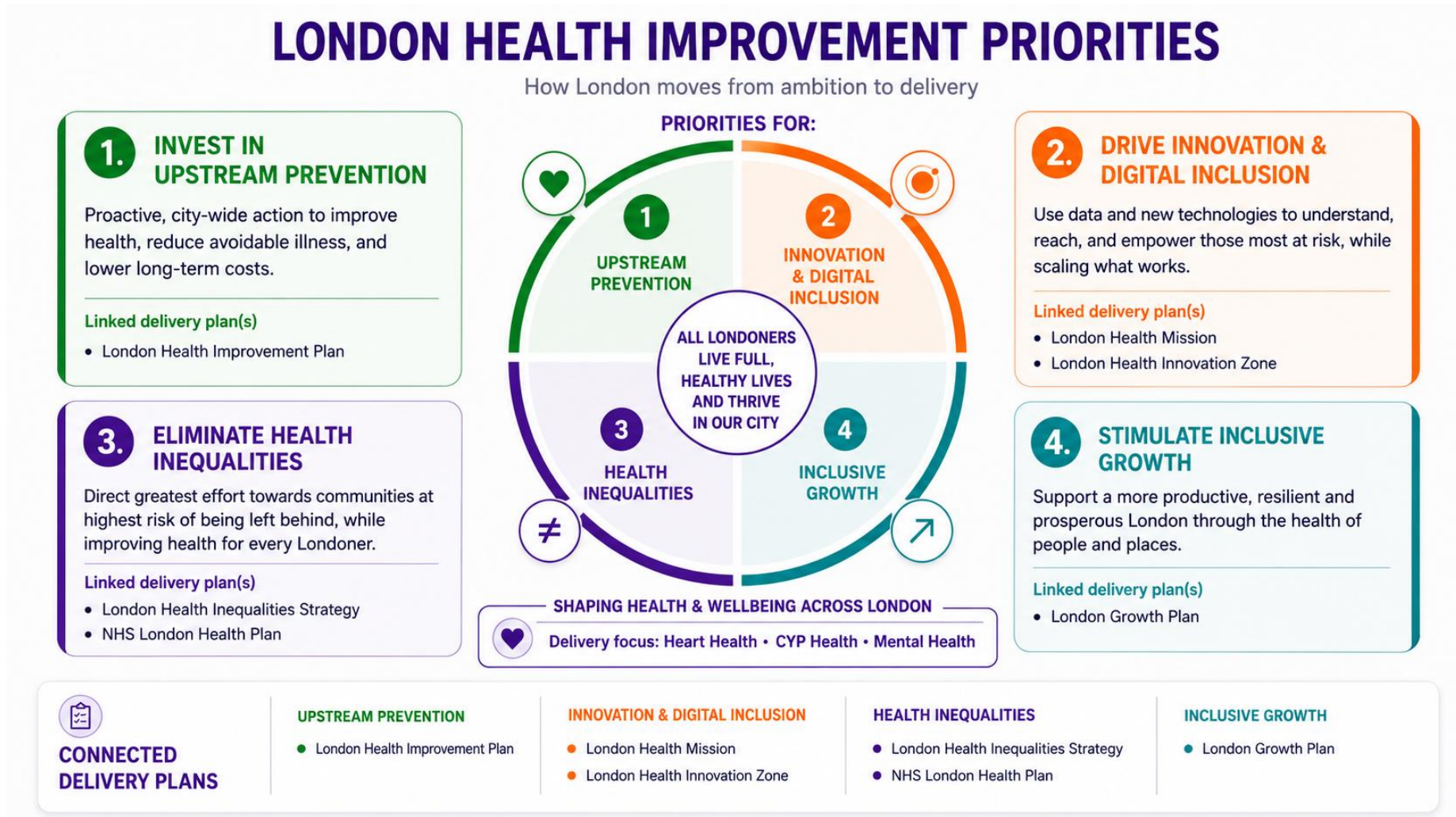
We will tackle the major drivers of cardiovascular disease through prevention, early diagnosis and treatment, healthier environments and community action.



ONE PLAN. THREE PRIORITIES. BETTER HEALTH FOR EVERY LONDONER.

Cross cutting themes

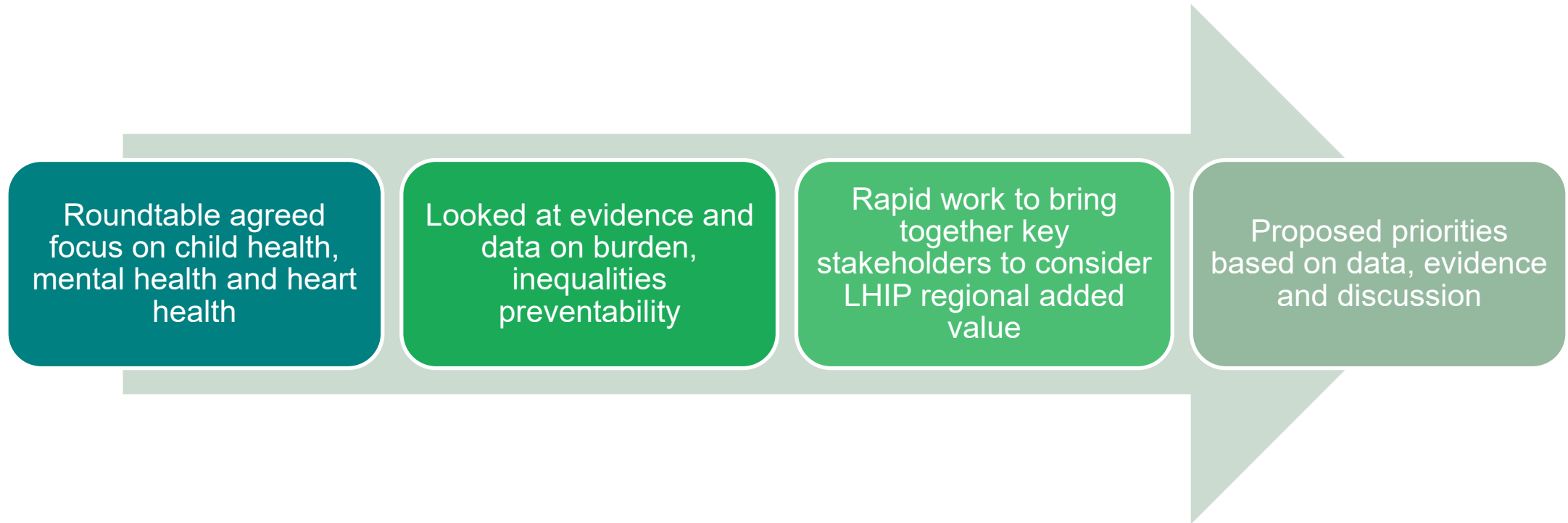
Upstream prevention, innovation & digital inclusion, inclusive growth, health inequalities





Developing the priorities

Rather than attempting to encompass every driver of health, priorities have been focused on three specific areas. The approach to prioritising potential areas of focus was agreed at the April Roundtable, and we undertook the following work to develop the priorities on child health and mental health:





Priority 1. Children and Young People's Health

Children and Young People

Giving every London child the best start in life

Our Challenge



Child Death

43% of child deaths in London reviewed by Child Death Overview Panel in 2025 identified modifiable factors.



Poverty & Housing

35% of London's children live in relative poverty, and over 100,000 are living in temporary accommodation.



Physical Inactivity

53% of our children and young people are not meeting recommended physical activity levels.

Youth Mental Health

1 in 5 young people in England are now estimated to live with a probable mental health disorder, highlighting the need for early emotional support.



Missed Opportunities

Child death and safeguarding reviews repeatedly identify missed opportunities for earlier intervention, fragmented pathways between services and poor coordination around children and families experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Our Approach

Integrated Family & Early Years Support

Breaking down the silos between maternity, health visiting, and family services by creating "no wrong door" support pathways and trusted key-worker models for families navigating multiple systems.

Thriving Throughout Adolescence

Shifting from crisis response to prevention by exploring integrated adolescent wellbeing hubs. This taps into London's sports, cultural, and youth networks to support mental health, belonging, and smoother transitions into adulthood.

Shared learning for safer childhoods

Using London's massive population footprint to consolidate intelligence and create shared prevention dashboards. This allows us to spot recurring risks and system failures to intervene before serious harm occurs.



BCYP priorities

Integrated Family and Early Years support

- Join up existing services around family need
- Strengthen “no wrong door” support pathways
- Focus on families with multiple or compounding needs
- Use trusted relationships and key-worker models
- Improve shared intelligence to act earlier

Supporting Thriving through transition and adolescence

- Shift from crisis response to prevention
- Support belonging, wellbeing, activity and opportunity
- Harness London’s sport, culture and youth assets
- Connect schools, youth services, health and communities
- Support smoother transitions into adulthood

Shared Learning for Safer Childhoods

Shift from crisis response to prevention
Support belonging, wellbeing, activity and opportunity
Harness London’s sport, culture and youth assets
Connect schools, youth services, health and communities



How progress will be governed and measured

The draft Plan sets out how we will:

- Build on **existing strengths and governance arrangements** across London, new implementation groups where required
- **Ensure oversight of delivery** through the London Health Improvement Board
- Have a **small number of shared measures outcomes** - inequalities, delivery milestones and learning measures.
- Hold a **commitment to learning and evaluation**.

To support **effective delivery**, we will:

- Develop separate **delivery plans** for each priority area and **outcome and delivery metrics**.
- Report publicly through an **annual London Health Improvement Report**.
- Undertake a **formal three-year review**
- Produce a regularly updated **London Health Improvement Data Pack**
- Working closely with academic partners, to **evaluate the impact and implementation** of key initiatives

Q2 Jul-Sept 26

- LHIP reviewed by LHIB
- LHIP finalised for autumn launch
- Heart health delivery plan to LHIB & enacted

Q3 Oct – Dec 26

- Mental Health delivery plan to LHIB & enacted
- Child health delivery plan developed

Q4 Jan-March 27

- Child health delivery plan to LHIB & enacted
- Progress update to LHIB on heart health & mental health

Thank you
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