



# Cumbria and Lancashire Public Health Collaborative

## Collaborative News

Issue 6 - 3rd April 2025



**Spring has definitely sprung this week**, with the brighter weather and the clocks changing it definitely feels like we've turned the corner out of a long winter! It looks set to continue in to next week so if you've had a busy week this week then fingers crossed you'll find the time to stretch your legs or get the garden ready for the summer over the weekend.

We've just started a new financial year, and we're happy to say that the Public Health teams from Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Cumberland, Lancashire and Westmorland and Furness have all agreed to continue to support the Public Health Collaborative for a further two financial years. This means that Rebecca & Ellie have had their contracts extended until March 2027.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful in keeping you up to date with some of the work of the Collaborative, please do let us have your feedback [rebecca.ramsay@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.ramsay@blackburn.gov.uk)

Each year we estimate that  
Smoking costs:  
NHS Lancashire and South  
Cumbria ICB  
£762M

Tobacco continues to cause a significant level of harm to our population. In fact, smoking is the number one cause of preventable death across England, resulting in more deaths than the next 5 causes combined. Across Lancashire & South Cumbria, smoking is responsible for around 7,600 premature deaths and over 17,000 hospital admissions each year. Each year we estimate that smoking costs NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB £762 million (Taken from ASH Ready Reckoner Dashboard [ASH Ready Reckoner - ASH](#))

The **Smokefree LSC Strategy Group** held a "Deep Dive" recently to look at what and how to tackle some of the priorities/ actions from the Smokefree Strategy [Tobacco Free Lancashire and South Cumbria Strategy | North West](#) Thanks to everyone who took the time out to attend . It's always tricky to prioritise a half day out of your diary, especially when it means people travelling whether that's from home or from usual work bases. On this occasion it was really valuable to spend time together in person and have some robust discussion.

We still need to work through some of the detail, but we've agreed 5 priorities that we think will help us to maximise quits;

- Mandatory training for front line staff
- Ensuring stop smoking advice is accessible (eg reading age, language)
- Consistent smokefree policies in a wide range of settings (eg schools, workplaces)
- Campaigns focusing on the benefits of quits
- Consistent planning across the calendar with buy in from wider partners

There's lots of other work already happening, but these actions are the ones we'll take forward as a Collaborative.

If you'd like to know more about this work, please contact [liz.petch@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:liz.petch@blackpool.gov.uk) who leads on delivery of the Smokefree Strategy for the Collaborative.



We're keen to get your views on **what kinds of CPD you'd like to see the Collaborative facilitate** for the Public Health Workforce. We have a small amount of funding which we could use to engage speakers or pay for venues. But what kinds of issues would you like to see us explore? Should it be topics that relate to Collaborative priorities, like reducing tobacco harms or inclusion health? Or should it be topics that help us to grow and develop our maturity as a partnership like coping with change or managing difficult situations or relationships?

If you've got any feedback or suggestions on what you'd like to see or where you think there's a gap, please do get in touch [rebecca.ramsay@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.ramsay@blackburn.gov.uk)

We do try and highlight any interesting training opportunities via our website - so do keep an eye out there [Training and Events | North West](#) If you see any that you think it's worth sharing [ellie.shackleton@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.shackleton@blackburn.gov.uk) can add them to the website to help promote them.

**NORTH WEST PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE 2025  
ANTI RACISM, HEALTH EQUITY & PUBLIC HEALTH: TAKING  
ACTION IN THE NORTH WEST**

Time is running out to book tickets for the **NW Public Health Conference** on 14th May at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston.

This thought provoking and action focused one day conference invites Public Health teams from across Local Authorities, NHS England, NHS Trusts, OHID, UKHSA and Integrated Care Systems to learn more about the national, regional, and local exemplar work and to shape and promote the work of the North West Public Health Anti Racism Collaborative.

The conference has three themes:

- Public Health leadership to address anti racism and race health equity
- Empowering racially minoritised communities
- Applying a racial critical lens in public health – tools and practical applications and learning from best practice

The conference will include:

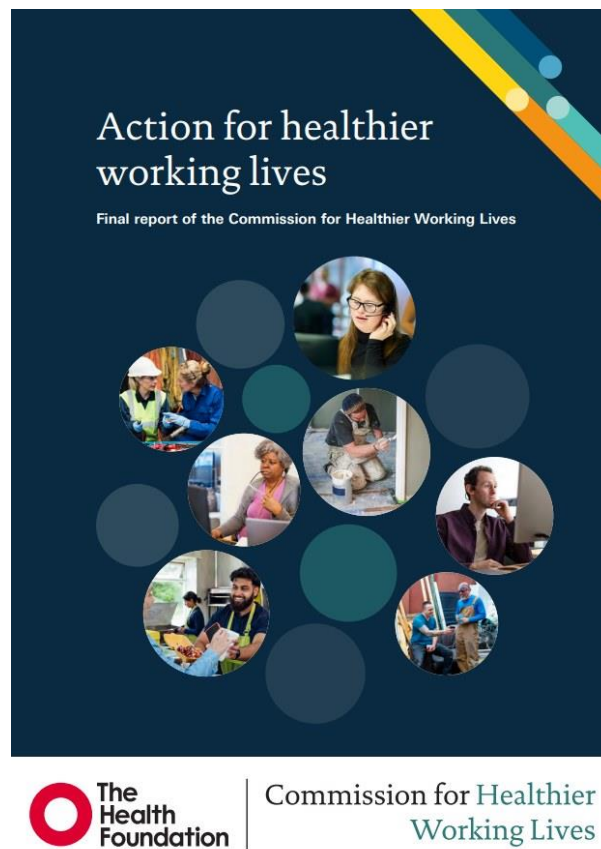
- National and local keynote speeches
- Panel Q&A
- Workshops to expand your knowledge
- Opportunity to submit an impactful research abstract, with potential to present at the conference

To snap up one of the few remaining tickets click here [North West Public Health Conference 2025 Tickets, Wed, May 14, 2025 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)



If you're interested in the theme of the conference you may also be interested in a report published by the Health Foundation with the Runnymede Trust which brings together work from both organisations to **explore the relationship between racism and the wider determinants of health.**

The Runnymede Trust is the UK's leading independent think tank on racial justice, and the Health Foundation is an independent charitable organisation working to build a healthier UK. The "How Racism Affects Health" report looks at a selection of socioeconomic factors, their implications for health and the role racism plays in shaping how they are experienced by people of colour.



Also published recently, The Commission for Healthier Working Lives is building a consensus on the action needed to **address the decline in working-age health**. It is creating a better understanding of health trends and inequalities – and their impact on individuals, employers and the economy.

The Commission has made recommendations for action to improve working-age health, and to help more people with health conditions get the support they need to access, remain or thrive in the workforce.

[Action for healthier working lives | The Health Foundation](#)



**A Trans and Gender Diverse Health Needs Assessment for Lancashire**, authored by Dr Sonia Chauhan (ST2) and Dr Michael Alexander, has been officially launched.

Guided by a steering group including local experts who work with TGD people, this project aimed to better understand the health needs of the trans and gender diverse population in Lancashire. Local data was collected through an online survey hosted by the charity Lancashire LGBT which gathered both quantitative and qualitative data.

The report covers a range of topics including demographics; physical, mental and sexual health, access to and experience of services and social determinants of health. The recommendations are split into four key themes:

- Building a bigger, safer world for TGD people
- Celebrating progress and positive stories
- Designing in inclusion
- Creating a confident and inclusive workforce, championing diversity

We invite you to view the full report [here](#) and share with colleagues and partners.

*"This health needs assessment is a vital opportunity to understand the experiences and challenges faced by trans and gender diverse people across Lancashire. Working together to address the recommendations will help us ensure that future health and wellbeing provision is informed by this evidence and truly meets the needs of the communities."* Dianne Draper, Consultant in Public Health, Blackpool Council and Public Health Collaborative Lead

*"This is the first Trans and Gender Diverse Health Needs Assessment conducted in the North West. It is a really important piece of work, providing much-needed evidence of the health inequalities that local Trans and Gender Diverse people experience, which we hope will inform local decision-making in health moving forward."* Lewis Turner, Chief Executive, Lancashire LGBT and TGD HNA Steering Group Chair.