



The London Health Commission Prospectus
2006-2008

**Partnership for health:
Challenges for action**

“I consider the London Health Commission to be our principal partnership for health. It is ensuring an unceasing focus on health inequalities and is making a real difference to policy and practice.”

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London

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Authors

Gail Findlay, London Health Commission
Coordinator

Tracey Adamson, Communications Specialist
tracey.adamson@ukgateway.net

Production

Gus Wilson, Development and
Communications Manager,
London Health Commission

Design

Foster+Lisle
0845 310 0855 www.fosterandlisle.co.uk

Photographs

Hayley Madden (unless otherwise captioned)
www.hayleymadden.com

Other formats and languages

For a large print, Braille, disc, sign language video or audio-tape version of this document, please contact Kofi Owusu, Administrator, London Health Commission, 6th Floor, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA.

Telephone 020 7983 5765

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Cover photo: East London Dance at
LHC Health Impact Assessment
of Mayor's Culture Strategy, February 2003



foreword

DESPITE THIS CITY'S great wealth and opportunities, the lives of too many Londoners continue to be limited by seemingly entrenched problems which have a big impact on their health and well-being. The overall picture of health in London masks deep disparities between the health of the least well off and that of their wealthier neighbours.

Although there are still gaps in our knowledge, we now have a good understanding of where and why health inequalities exist, but much remains to be done to tackle them.

We know that this will take concerted long-term effort by a myriad of agencies, organisations and individuals. London is fortunate to have a unique city-wide partnership in the London Health Commission to boost the ongoing drive to improve health for all Londoners.

We consider the London Health Commission to be our principal partnership for health and are encouraged by the progress being made to develop joint work and deliver joint priorities. Key pan-London organisations have already recognised the Commission as a powerful vehicle for delivery of major national policy objectives, and value its potential to link, speed-up and add value to their individual activities.

Building on four years of achievement to date, this prospectus sets out a significant programme of action agreed by the Commission for the remainder of this Mayoral term, taking us through to 2008.

It gives added impetus to some of the most pressing priorities for action by issuing four direct *health challenges*. They are a timely call to action. They give organisations opportunities to demonstrate their commitment to partnership approaches, to lead by doing, and to respond in new ways to address health inequalities in London.

We urge all organisations - from all sectors - that are concerned about health and health inequalities in London to engage with us in this collective action.

By sharing the London Health Commission's plans we hope this prospectus will serve to encourage investment and support new and existing partnerships for better health in London.

Ken Livingstone

Mayor of London

Jennette Arnold

*London Assembly Member and
London Health Commission Chair*



the london health commission

tackling inequalities

THE LONDON HEALTH COMMISSION is creating partnerships to reduce health inequalities in the capital and improve the health and well-being of all Londoners.

We are **influencing policy** makers and practitioners, **supporting local action**, and **driving priorities** through specific joint programmes of work.

“There’s a huge challenge still ahead of us, but we have put inequalities on the map and we’ve got strong partnerships in place to tackle them.”

Sue Atkinson,
Regional Director of Public Health

influential

The 26 Members of the Commission (see back cover) represent organisations that have a significant span of influence over public policy and practice on health and the wider determinants of health in London. Members are actively involved and bring to the table the ability to drive change that will impact on health inequalities.

A broader network of individuals and organisations, engaged through the Commission’s forums, extends our ‘reach’ still further into arenas as diverse as social enterprise, education, employment, the environment, sport and local communities.

Seven pan-London organisations make up our Executive Group:

- The Association of London Government
- Government Office for London
- Greater London Authority
- King’s Fund

- London Development Agency
- London Health Observatory
- Regional Public Health Group

“The UCL research we commissioned found that LHC networks extend outwards to reach out to key groups such as those interested in Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) or children’s issues. They found that a majority of participants in the LHC appear to be from non-health organisations, suggesting that the LHC is indeed acting as a mechanism for persuading non-health bodies to take account of health issues.”

Steve Dewar, Director of Funding and Development, King’s Fund

unique

We are a unique strategic partnership. Set up by Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone in October 2000, the London Health Commission was created from a partnership of organisations that had come together the previous year to develop a health strategy for London.

We achieve our goals through collective action and the combined efforts and resources of our partners; we have no statutory powers or responsibilities.

A small team, funded by partners and hosted by the GLA, co-ordinates and supports development and delivery of our work programme.

principled

Throughout its work the Commission promotes:

- **Partnerships** that are visible, inclusive, effective and committed.
- **Equity and diversity** – celebrating the rich diversity of London’s communities and working for equal opportunities and health for all.
- **Community involvement** – actively engaging citizens, communities and stakeholders.
- **Needs and evidence-based action** – building and sharing ideas, evidence and learning about health and its determinants.

focussed

The London Health Commission’s priorities complement and add value to those of individual partner organisations.



Delegates at the LHC Health
Impact Assessment of the Mayor's
Culture Strategy, July 2003



effective

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE London Health Commission's impressive track record of achievement include:

healthier public policy

We conducted Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) on all of the statutory London Mayoral strategies, and others relevant to our priorities, ensuring that each one makes a positive contribution to the health of Londoners. It is the first time that regional policy had been scrutinised in this way.

“The HIAs have raised awareness of the social model of health and public health agendas amongst those whose primary roles are not health related... Most importantly [they] have influenced strategy.”

From Opinion Leader Research evaluation of the Health Impact Assessments on the draft Mayoral strategies for London, 2002

speaking out on London health issues

The Big Smoke Debate was initiated by the Commission in October 2003 as a means of speaking out on concerns about passive smoking. 40,000 Londoners gave their views in a survey, revealing a high level of support for restrictions on smoking in public places. It attracted significant media coverage and galvanised partners into action at local, regional and national levels. Seven other regions have since taken steps to replicate this approach.

“*The Big Smoke Debate* was highly effective in giving voice to public opinion and moving this issue up the political agenda. It prompted the Mayor of London, local authorities and the NHS to lobby for smoke-free work and public places.”

Carolyn Regan, *Chief Executive, NE London Strategic Health Authority*

providing tools for health improvement

“The London Health Commission has led the field in the development, application and learning on Health Impact Assessment methodology.”

Judith Hunt OBE,
Chair, London Health Observatory

Through the provision of training, resources and events, and in partnership with the London Health Observatory, the Commission has built awareness of the power of Health Impact Assessment as a health improvement tool, and nurtured skills for their application at local, regional and national levels.

forging new partnerships for health

Through our *London Works for Better Health* programme, sponsored by the King's Fund 2003-05, we have engaged with the business sector in a drive to reduce health inequalities through employment and enterprise, and are collaborating with the Learning and Skills Council (South London) and others to support small and medium sized enterprises to be 'healthy employers'.

“Through the *London Works for Better Health* programme we now have a unique framework for appraising what makes a local economy which is both sustainable and health-promoting. It takes into account the distinctive characteristics of London – as an economy and as a place to live and work. London, with its huge regeneration agenda, is the perfect test-bed for such a framework.”

Ros Dunn, *Director of Strategy & Corporate Planning, London Development Agency*

Partnerships between health and education sectors have been strengthened by our *Healthy Young London* campaign. We organised the *Activ8* festival in 2005 in partnership with the Mayor of London and London Food. This free event in Hyde Park was attended by thousands of children, young people and families. It promoted the importance of play, keeping healthy and having fun.

“The *London Health Commission's* support for *Activ8* ensured a strong focus on health and wellbeing. It brought the expertise of a broad range of partners to bear in both the planning and delivery of this successful event, as it has throughout the *Healthy Young London* programme.”

Caroline Boswell, *Head of the Children and Young People's Unit at the GLA – Mayor's office*

supporting local action

We launched the *Healthy Young London* campaign with the support of the Food Standards Agency, who brought their 'Cooking Bus' to four schools in 2004. In the same boroughs the LHC convened local 'roundtable discussions' that brought together, for the first time, local policy makers, commissioners and providers from health, education and the catering industry to discuss food in schools.

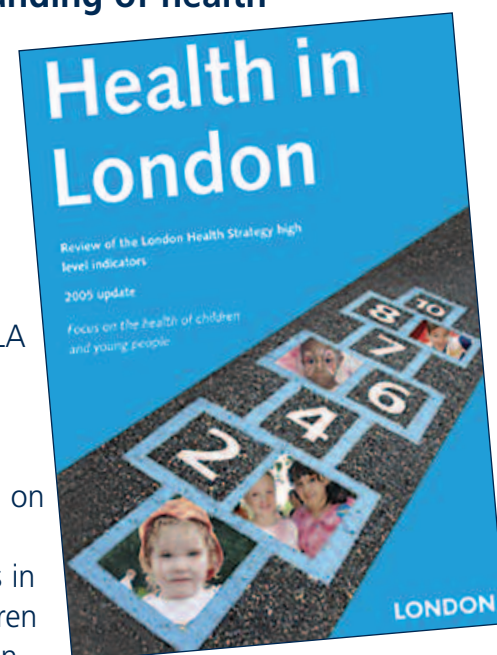
These discussions identified good practice at the local level, increased understanding of opportunities and barriers to promoting and providing healthy food in schools, and highlighted what else can be done locally and how pan-London organisations can support this work.

building understanding of health inequalities

We have published four annual *Health in London* reports, drawing on the expertise of the London Health Observatory, the GLA and other partners. Focussing on the health of disabled Londoners in 2003, on black and minority ethnic communities in 2004, and on children and young people in 2005, they bring together detailed information about health and the determinants of health in a form that supports discussion and action by agencies.

“Congratulations on the 2005 report – it is very helpful in getting together summary strategic information for service planners.”

Peter Keeble, *Strategic Information Officer, London Borough of Barnet*



Promoting health, play and having fun at Activ8 – the LHC and Mayor's free festival, August 2005



forward programme 2006-2008

building momentum

THROUGH OUR FORWARD programme, the Commission will seek to strengthen its ability to make an impact on health inequalities. We will reinforce the partnership and enhance its links with the education, voluntary and business sectors. We will improve awareness of our work and extend the Commission's influence, and continue to speak out on key health issues for Londoners.

Our priorities, as set out on page 3, remain constant and will be taken forward by our seven forums. During 2006-08 the Commission will give particular attention to:

- **Employment and health** – focussing in on improving employment among disabled people.
- **Smoke-free workplaces** – building on our *Big Smoke Debate* campaign.

- **Improving language support services** – addressing one of the key barriers to achieving equitable access to services.
- **Young Londoners' emotional health and wellbeing** – developing and promoting a framework for action across London as part of the Healthy Young London campaign.

For each of these top priorities the Commission is issuing a *Health Challenge* to give added focus to its work and that of its partners – see pages 7-10.

The *Challenges* are set firmly in the context of our wider programme of work - see pages 11-16.



leading by doing *challenges* for action

EACH CHALLENGE will define **specific, measurable and realistic** action for all partner organisations during each Mayoral term. In this way they are designed to make a tangible and quantifiable difference to the health of priority groups, and contribute to the reduction of health inequalities.

Challenge 1 - disabled people and employment

Challenge 2 - Smoke-free London

Challenge 3 - language support services

Challenge 4 - young Londoners' emotional health and wellbeing

All Commission partners have pledged to take up the *Challenges*. They have welcomed them as an opportunity to clearly demonstrate leadership on these key health priorities by their own actions, and by encouraging others within their spheres of influence to take action too.

Action on the *Challenges* will be phased in over the next two years. With work on *Challenges 1* and *2* already underway, action on *Challenges 3* and *4* will commence in 2007.

Partner organisations will significantly increase the number of disabled people in their employment by March 2008, and promote inclusive employment practices among organisations within their sphere of influence.

This *Challenge* aims to contribute to the development of an inclusive employment environment for disabled Londoners. It recognises the link between ill-health and poverty and disability.

London First, Greater London Action on Disability and the London Development Agency will together champion this *Challenge*, supported by the Commission's Disabled Londoners Forum and the *London Works for Better Health* programme.

health challenge 1



disabled people and employment

Partner organisations will introduce 'completely smoke-free' policies, in advance of any legal requirement to do so, and will encourage other organisations within their sphere of influence to do likewise.

This *Challenge* encourages partners to take decisive action to protect the health of their clients and staff, responding to the overwhelming evidence of the risks to health of second hand smoke.

The Regional Public Health Group, the Association of London Government and the NHS will champion this *Challenge* actively supported by the SmokeFree London Forum.

health challenge 2



Smoking affects us all.

Smoking in public places. Should it go? Let us know. www.thebigmokedebate.com LONDON HEALTH COMMISSION
Cafes, Shopping Centres, Taxis, Offices, Restaurants, Pubs, Bars, Railway Stations.

smoke-free London

Partner organisations will ensure that they are able to meet the communication needs of all of their users by providing quality language support services, and will encourage other organisations within their sphere of influence to do likewise.

The Commission has established a major project that is developing a practical strategy to improve access to quality language support services across London's public services. It is addressing one of the key barriers to achieving equitable access to services among people with language support needs, including minority ethnic communities and deaf people.

The GLA, the Association of London Government and the London Development Centre for Mental Health will champion this *Challenge*. The Commission's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Health Forum is overseeing this project and will also champion this *Challenge*.

health challenge 3



language support services

Partner organisations will ensure that their staff are aware of and are able to respond effectively to the emotional health and wellbeing needs of young Londoners. They will encourage other organisations within their sphere of influence to do likewise.

The Commission has established a project that is leading the development of a framework to promote young Londoners' emotional health and wellbeing. This will include a training and support package for staff working with, and planning services for, children and young people.

Partners will ensure that their staff receive the training and support package and use their influence to secure wider sign-up. GOL, the King's Fund, London's strategic health authorities, the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Development Centre for Mental Health will champion this *Challenge*; The Children and Young People Forum will develop the framework and support the *Challenge*.

health challenge 4



young Londoners' emotional health and wellbeing

you can join us in this *challenge!*

THE LONDON HEALTH Commission's key partners have committed to accept these *Health Challenges* as a means of demonstrating leadership in progressing action on key health priorities.

However, all organisations from all sectors that are concerned about health and health inequalities are encouraged to join in.

To find out more about how your organisation can take up the challenge please contact us or visit our website: www.londonhealth.gov.uk

“The LHC Challenges are a call to action to **all** organisations in London to work in harmony on key health issues for Londoners. Through concerted action together we can make a **real** difference to the health of Londoners.”

Melba Wilson, LHC Deputy Chair and
Director of Race Equality,
London Development Centre for Mental Health

the forward programme continues

THE LONDON HEALTH COMMISSION'S

wider programme of work continues. It will be progressed through seven existing forums, all of which harness the expertise and influence of a broad range of relevant partners.

Our forums focus on:

- Inequalities and wider determinants
- Children and young people
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic health
- Disabled Londoners
- Smoke-free London
- Urban development and regeneration
- Community development



Ensuring that health inequalities remain the focus of all the Commission's work:

The Health Inequalities and Wider Determinants of Health Forum.

Activities include:

- Informing the Commission and stakeholders about evidence and effective interventions to address health inequalities.
- Actively engaging with the academic and research community in London.
- Continuing to develop the Commission's *Shared Learning for Strategic Partnerships* project, focussing initially on the issue of housing and health.

It is chaired by Ian Basnett, Assistant Director of Public Health for North East London Strategic Health Authority.

Organisations represented on this forum include the Department of Health's Inequalities Unit, London Voluntary Services Council and Croydon Primary Care Trust.

Policy support and investment is provided by the GLA.



Launch of the Healthy Young London campaign, July 2004

Encouraging action to reduce health inequalities among children and young people in the capital:

The Children and Young People Forum.

This forum is driving forward the Healthy Young London campaign which is strengthening partnerships between health and education.

Activities include:

- Promoting healthy eating and supporting local action to improve school food.
- Developing a framework that will assist agencies in improving children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing in London – see *Challenge 4*, page 9.
- Driving action on the key priorities for London in relation to the *Improving health* outcome of *Every Child Matters* and contributing to the development of London-wide work on *Every Child Matters* as a whole.

The forum is chaired by GOL's Director of Children and Learners, Jennifer Izekor.

Organisations represented include: National Healthy Schools, London Development Centre for Mental Health, Sport England, Sure Start, National Council of Voluntary Childcare Organisations and the Big Lottery Fund.

GOL co-ordinates its work. The King's Fund and London's strategic health authorities have all pledged investment for 2006-08.

“*The London Health Commission offers us a unique and powerful vehicle for fulfilling our aspirations to work in partnership to deliver national policy and programmes in a joined up way across London. We have designated the LHC Children and Young People Forum as the Be Healthy working group on the Every Child Matters agenda; it brings together senior staff, working on the children's agenda, from the many organisations across London that are key to delivery of change for children.*”

Jennifer Izekor, *Director of Children and Learners, GOL*



Making connections across the sectors to improve health outcomes for people from London’s black and minority ethnic communities:

The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Health Forum.

Activities include:

- Progressing the recommendations of the ALG’s 2001 report, *Sick of Being Excluded*.
- Steering the development of a strategy to improve access to quality language support services within London’s public sector services – see *Challenge 3*, page 9.
- Campaigning for the recording of ethnicity data to inform action on and monitoring of health and inequalities among black and minority ethnic communities.

Organisations represented on this forum include: Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health, Age Concern London, Royal College of Midwives, Commission for Racial Equality, Refugee Council, Asian Health Network, AMICUS, Race on the Agenda, Afiya Trust and Lewisham Community Development Partnership.

It is chaired by Melba Wilson, Wandsworth PCT Chair and LHC Deputy Chair.

Secretariat support is provided to the forum by the ALG. The ALG and the London Mental Health Development Centre contribute funding for the language support service strategy development, and the King’s Fund has pledged support for its implementation.

“We highlighted the urgent need to improve language support services across London in the ALG’s report *Sick of Being Excluded*. Through the London Health Commission we are working together to address this problem which has a major influence, directly and indirectly, on health and health inequalities in some of the most vulnerable communities in London.”

Cllr Stephen Burke, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and former Chair - ALG Health and Social Services Panel



Raising awareness of the needs of disabled Londoners and encouraging action to improve their health:

The Disabled Londoners Forum.

Activities include:

- Encouraging partners to improve access for disabled people to key health and social care services, premises and information.
- Supporting the *London Works for Better Health* programme, building on the 'Inspire' research and the GLAD Synergy project, to reduce health inequalities among disabled people through employment and enterprise practices – see *Challenge 1*, page 8.
- Encouraging targeted prevention and screening programmes for disabled people and in particular for disabled women.
- Developing initiatives to support young disabled people in accessing health services independently, and to provide personal development planning.

This forum is chaired by Trish Pashley, Chair of Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD).

Its membership reflects the particular focus of its activities, drawing on the large number of GLAD member organisations across the capital and Commission partners.

The GLA and LDA are supporting this forum's work.



Reducing the harm caused by tobacco to the health of Londoners:

The SmokeFree London Forum.

Activities include:

- Building links with and influencing agencies whose policy, legislative or regulatory remit can impact on the use of tobacco.
- Providing the reference group for the SmokeFree London group and building on the success of the Commission's *Big Smoke Debate* initiative.
- Encouraging partner organisations to take decisive action to protect the health of their clients and staff from tobacco smoke – see *Challenge 2*, page 8.

The forum is chaired by Stephen Burke, Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

Organisations represented include the Trades Union Congress, the Prison Service and the Muslim Health Network.

The Regional Public Health Group provides policy and practical support and funds the forum's work along with the London NHS.



Promoting healthy, inclusive communities through the urban development of London:

The Urban Development and Regeneration Forum.

The forum works with a range of organisations and groups including planners, architects, designers and developers. Activities include:

- Overseeing the Health Impact Assessment and ‘Health Dividend’ of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Promoting the use of health and integrated impact assessment in planning processes, including piloting the assessment of the GLA’s sub-regional development frameworks.
- Supporting the *London Works for Better Health* programme (see box right), which is working to reduce health inequalities through employment and enterprise.

The forum is chaired by Paul Plant, Deputy Director of Public Health for London.

Organisations represented include London First, London’s strategic health authorities, North West London NHS Workforce Development Confederation and GLAD.

The Regional Public Health Group and the LDA provide policy, practical and funding support. *London Works for Better Health* is supported by the Regional Public Health Group and the LDA. It was initially sponsored by the King’s Fund.

London Works for Better Health

“Programmes that reduce levels of long-term unemployment and inactivity, raise incomes and encourage enterprise in disadvantaged communities help to lay the foundations for tackling health inequalities...” *Tackling Inequalities (Department of Health, 2003)*

This programme has established several linked projects focussing on:

- **The role of work in improving health** – future activity will include taking forward the recommendations of *Healthy Work: Productive Workplaces – Why the UK Needs More “Good Jobs”*, a joint publication by the Work Foundation and the London Health Commission.
- **Making Health Work for Business** – leading on the mainstreaming of research and pilot activity (funded through a successful bid to the European Social Fund’s EQUAL programme) around health, disability and job retention, particularly in small and medium sized enterprises.
- **Sustainable Local Economies for Health Project (SLEHP)** – promoting application of a unique strategic framework, developed by this project, which is designed to assist organisations in developing sustainable communities which are also health promoting.



Providing a pan-London resource for local community development activities:

The Community Development Forum.

Taking a 'Think London – act local' approach, its activities include:

- Promoting and spreading best practice in the use of effective community development as an important tool for reducing health inequalities.
- Giving a voice to local community development initiatives at London and national level.
- Exploring opportunities to encourage Local Strategic Partnerships to contribute to community development.

The forum is chaired by Elizabeth Manero, Executive Officer, Health Link.

Organisations represented on this forum include Social Action for Health, the Urban Forum, London Metropolitan University, Faith Regen and New Enterprise.

The GLA has pledged support for these activities during 2006-08.

“All decisions affecting the community should involve the community. This means that there has to be dialogue between local community groups and decision-makers at London level. We are committed to helping make this dialogue happen, as part of our work in helping to make communities healthier.”

*Elizabeth Manero,
Executive Officer, Health Link*

London Health Commission Members

Jennette Arnold <i>Chair</i>	<i>London Assembly Member – North East London</i>
Melba Wilson <i>Deputy Chair</i>	<i>Director of Race Equality – London Development Centre for Mental Health, and Chair – Wandsworth Primary Care Trust</i>
Prof. Sue Atkinson	<i>Director of Public Health – Regional Public Health Group, London</i>
Dr Ian Basnett	<i>Assistant Director of Public Health – North East London Strategic Health Authority</i>
Tim Brighthouse	<i>London Schools Commissioner – Institute of Education</i>
Chris Bull	<i>Director – Southwark PCT & Social Services</i>
Cllr Stephen Burke	<i>Leader of the Council – London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</i>
Neale Coleman	<i>Director, Business Planning and Regeneration – Greater London Authority</i>
Niall Dickson	<i>Chief Executive – King’s Fund</i>
Prof. Andy Haines	<i>Dean – London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine</i>
Elizabeth Howlett	<i>London Assembly Member – Merton & Wandsworth</i>
Judith Hunt	<i>Chair – London Health Observatory</i>
Kamaljeet Jandu	<i>Commissioner – Commission for Racial Equality (London Region)</i>
David Lunts	<i>Executive Director, Policy & Partnerships – Greater London Authority</i>
Elizabeth Manero	<i>Executive Officer – Health Link</i>
Prof. Sir Michael Marmot	<i>Director, International Centre for Health & Society – University College London</i>
Geoff Martin	<i>London Region Convenor – South East Region TUC</i>
Jennifer Izekor	<i>Director of Children and Learners – Government Office for London</i>
Trish Pashley	<i>Chief Executive – Greater London Action on Disability</i>
David Peters	<i>Vice President – London First</i>
Dr Paul Plant	<i>Deputy Director of Public Health – Regional Public Health Group, London</i>
Carolyn Regan	<i>Chief Executive – North East London Strategic Health Authority</i>
Mary Reilly	<i>Chair – London Development Agency</i>
Paula Shaw	<i>Chair, Health & Social Services Panel – Association of London Government</i>
Drew Stevenson	<i>Chair – London Voluntary Service Council</i>
Richard Sumray	<i>Magistrate Member – Metropolitan Police Authority</i>



Further information

To find out more about the London Health Commission or to get involved please visit our website at www.londonhealth.gov.uk

Or contact :
The Co-ordinator
London Health Commission
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
LONDON SE1 2AA
Tel: **020 7983 5765**
Email: health.commission@london.gov.uk

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