

Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030



Prioritising prevention and acting on the social determinants of health



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Executive Summary

- Our health is shaped by many factors, including the social (or wider) determinants of health, which include our environmental, social, and economic circumstances.
- Health is also influenced by individual health behaviours such as diet, smoking, access to health and care services, and individual characteristics like age, sex, and ethnicity.
- Some activities help prevent the onset or worsening of ill health, and these prevention activities can be in the community or within the health and social care system.
- The aim of this new five-year strategy is to improve the health and wellbeing of all Lewisham residents and reduce existing health inequalities by taking partnership action on prevention and priority social determinants of health for the borough.
- The priority areas for action within the strategy are:
 - Poverty
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Prevention
- Within each priority area, a specific focus action has been identified alongside a range of other actions.
- The strategy has been developed with the recognition of many other areas of work that are taking place in the borough, regionally and nationally. The strategy aims to both amplify and align with this existing work.
- The implementation of actions and monitoring of the strategy's impact will be overseen by the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board.

Introduction

Health and wellbeing in Lewisham

Lewisham is a diverse inner London borough with a population of 298,700¹. The latest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) overview for the borough, the [Picture of Lewisham](#), published in 2024, highlights the most recent demographic, health, and wellbeing data for the borough. Of note, cancer and cardiovascular disease were the biggest causes of death (mortality) between 2020-2021 (aside from COVID-19) in Lewisham¹.

In Lewisham, health and wellbeing outcomes are unequal between different population groups. There continues to be significant and unacceptable inequalities in life expectancy at birth between those living in the most and least deprived areas of the borough. In 2020-21, there was a 6.6-year gap in life expectancy for men in these two areas and a 5.6-year gap for women².

The Birmingham Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review ([BLACHIR](#)) published in 2022, and subsequent work, highlights the existing ethnic health inequalities present in Lewisham for those of Black African and Black Caribbean ethnicity. The work outlines inequalities across the life-course for this population and presents key areas that need to be addressed to close the inequality gap.

A recent Lewisham JSNA topic assessment focused on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) population, and highlighted how this group experiences a disproportionate burden of ill-health and faces inequalities with access to and experience of health services.

There is also [national](#) and local evidence that health inequalities are experienced by ethnically diverse communities, people with a learning disability, those who are neurodiverse, people with severe mental illness, people with multiple long-term health conditions, other groups that share protected characteristics, and inclusion health groups such as people experiencing homelessness and vulnerable migrants.

¹ [ONS, Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2023](#)

² OHID Fingertips, [Segment Tool](#)

What shapes health?

To be healthy is not just to be free of illness, but to be enabled to live a positive and fulfilling life. Our health is shaped by many factors, including the social (or wider) determinants of health – our environmental, social, and economic circumstances. Health is also influenced by individual health behaviours such as diet, smoking, access to health and care services, and individual characteristics like age, sex, and ethnicity. Some activities help prevent the onset or worsening of ill health, and these prevention activities can be in the community or within the health and social care system. Differences in the factors that shape health contribute to health inequalities within the borough.

The social determinants are essential building blocks for health, as shown in Figure 1. They include our homes, access to education, our jobs, the community we are a part of, public transport, safe green spaces, and whether we experience poverty or discrimination³. Our surroundings are important building blocks, for example, indoor and outdoor air quality and the effects of climate change – such as episodes of extreme heat – can affect our health. Local government, the health system and wider partners all have important roles in shaping these building blocks locally.



Figure 1 – The building blocks of health and wellbeing

Source: <https://www.health.org.uk/features-and-opinion/features/what-builds-good-health>

³ L Marshall (2024). What builds good health? The Health Foundation.

The three most recent Lewisham Director of Public Health's [Annual Public Health Reports](#) covered social determinants of health – Health in All Policies, Culture and Health, and the Cost-of-Living crisis. The reports present evidence of the health impacts of these social determinants, current action, and recommendations for promoting health through these areas in Lewisham.

Health and wellbeing are also influenced by prevention activities and behaviour change within the community, health and social care systems. Prevention in the community includes healthy diets, physical activity, support with stopping smoking and reducing alcohol intake. Within the health system, prevention includes treating clinical risk factors for cardiovascular disease (such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol), initiating smoking cessation, or obesity reduction programmes⁴. Immunisations also work to prevent ill health from birth to older age, and screening detects disease before there are noticeable symptoms, enabling early and effective treatment. From an adult social care perspective, prevention can also be seen as the use of services which prevent or delay the need for care in higher-cost, more intensive settings⁵.

Recent Lewisham JSNA topic assessments include [immunisation](#) and [cancer screening](#). These assessments present evidence for the uptake of these services, and factors that contribute to inequalities in uptake within the borough. The reports also offer recommendations for how uptake could be increased.

The impacts of COVID-19 JSNA topic assessment highlights that many key prevention programmes were impacted negatively by the pandemic, particularly breast screening, childhood immunisation programmes and NHS Health Checks programme that detects risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

⁴ <https://www.bmj.com/content/380/bmj.p201>

⁵ <https://www.scie.org.uk/integrated-care/prevention-in-social-care/>

The Strategy development process

Building on the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-23

The first Health and Wellbeing Strategy in Lewisham was published in 2013. The strategy covered a 10-year period and had three overarching aims that underpinned nine priority areas for action:

1. **To improve health** – by providing a wide range of support and opportunities to help adults and children to keep fit and healthy and reduce preventable ill health.
2. **To improve care** – by ensuring that services and support are of high quality and accessible to all those who need them, so that they can regain their best health and wellbeing and maintain their independence for as long as possible.
3. **To improve efficiency** – by improving the way services are delivered, streamlining pathways, integrating services, ensuring that services provide good quality and value for money.

In 2015, the strategy was refreshed following engagement activity with stakeholders and discussions by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The three interdependent broader priorities identified for the 2015-18 period were:

1. To accelerate the integration of adult, children, and young people's care.
2. To shift the focus of action and resources to preventing ill health and promoting independence.
3. Supporting our communities and families to become healthier and more resilient, including addressing the wider determinants of health.

The strategy was monitored using an indicator framework, which demonstrated that there have been a number of areas of good progress against the strategic priorities to date namely:

- Bowel cancer screening coverage has seen a sustained increase between 2013 and the most recent reporting period.
- Smoking prevalence in Lewisham has seen a sustained reduction between 2013 and the most recent reporting period.
- Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks in Lewisham has continued to be among the highest in the country.
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine uptake for 12–13-year-old females in Lewisham is currently higher than the national average.

However, several areas still require action:

- Both under 75 years cardiovascular mortality and under 75 years cancer mortality are still significantly higher than the national average.
- The number of children in primary school with excess weight has fluctuated, with more sustained progress needed. For children in the last year of primary school, Lewisham sees significantly higher rates than the national average.
- Breast cancer screening coverage fell during the pandemic and has yet to return to the coverage levels seen in 2019.
- Although the decline was less sharp, there has been a similar decrease in cervical cancer screening, particularly for those aged 25-49.

The new strategy aims to build on the progress achieved since 2013 by going further with prevention and having a stronger focus on the social determinants of health.

Developing the new Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2025-30

A number of steps have been taken to ensure that this strategy:

- **is evidence based.**
- **is data driven.**
- **takes stakeholder and resident lived experience into account.**

The strategy has therefore been developed over the last 18-24 months through the following mechanisms:

- Review of progress against the previous strategic priorities.
- Collation of data from the most recent JSNA 'Picture of Lewisham' and JSNA topic assessments (as outlined in the introduction).
- Two Lewisham stakeholder workshops around the social determinants of health – involving over fifty representatives from statutory, community and resident organisations (summary findings from the workshops can be found in Appendix D).

Through the strategy development process, the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board has prioritised acting on prevention and the three social determinants of health that are of particular significance to Lewisham:

- **Poverty**
- **Housing**
- **Education**

Subsequent data collation, evidence gathering and stakeholder consultation has been undertaken around the three priority social determinants of health and prevention initiatives, to determine local action that can be taken in Lewisham.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–30

Our ambition

Strategy aim:

- To improve the health and wellbeing of all Lewisham residents and reduce existing health inequalities by taking partnership action on prevention and priority social determinants of health for the borough.

Strategy objectives:

- To be a **guide** for all that is happening in the borough from a strategic perspective to support health and wellbeing of residents.
- To **amplify** the partnership work taking place for priority social determinants of health in Lewisham (poverty, housing and education), particularly at the interface with health and care services that partners have agreed to progress together.
- To continue to have a **focus** on prevention initiatives including prevention in adult social care.

Key enablers of the strategy

- Data sharing between partners
- The Health and Wellbeing Board ways of working
- Co-location of services within the community
- Voluntary and community sector (VCS) services and support

Population groups

The strategy aims to tackle health inequalities through action on the priority social determinants and prevention initiatives for everyone, but with a focus that is proportionate to the needs of different groups. The

work will therefore have a particular focus on certain population groups who experience health inequalities in the borough, and these include people living in areas of higher deprivation, and people from Black and minoritised ethnic groups. There will also be focus on people with a learning disability, people with mental ill health, and those who are neurodiverse.

Alignment with other areas of work

This strategy has been developed with the recognition of many other areas of work that are taking place in the borough. Within the council, there is a great deal of work taking place to address the social determinants of health, and examples of some of these strategies are presented in Figure 2.

The South East London Integrated Care System's (SEL ICS) priority areas for Lewisham are aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The SEL ICS priorities are:

1. To strengthen the integration of primary and community-based care
2. To build stronger, healthier families and provide families with integrated, high quality, whole family support services
3. To address inequalities throughout Lewisham's health and care system and tackle impact on health and care outcomes
4. To maximise our roles as 'anchor organisations' and employers

The voluntary and community sector also plays an important role in promoting health and wellbeing for different communities in the borough through the services and initiatives that they deliver.

Strategy Implementation

A detailed implementation plan will be developed for the strategy priority areas and delivery will be overseen by the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board.

The composition and meeting rhythm of the Board will be reshaped in light of the strategy and implementation plan to ensure that optimal stakeholder participation is achieved.

Examples of Lewisham strategies that address social determinants of health

Core determinants: Lewisham strategies with core determinants of health priorities

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| Corporate Strategy 2022–2026 | Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021–2024 | Parks and Open Spaces 2020–2025 | Integrated Care Systems 2023–2028 |
| Lewisham Cultural Strategy 2023–2028 | Education Strategy 2022–2027 | Transport Strategy | Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022–2025 |
| Inclusive Economy Lewisham – Economic Development Strategy Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls 2021–2026 | Housing Strategy 2020–2026 | Physical Activity Strategy 2023–2028 | Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019–2024 |
| | Lewisham Housing Retrofit Strategy | Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024 | |
| | | Lewisham Air Quality Action Plan 2022–2027 | |
| | | Lewisham Local Plan | |

Figure 2 – Lewisham council strategies that address social determinants of health.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–30

Priority Areas

The four main priority areas for action to meet the strategy aims and objectives are:

1. Taking action to address the impact of poverty on health and wellbeing.
2. Taking action to address the impact of housing on health and wellbeing.
3. Taking action to embed prevention for children and young people in educational settings.
4. Taking action to progress key prevention programmes within the borough, with a focus on embedding cancer and cardiovascular disease prevention across the Lewisham's health and adult social care system.

For each priority area, a specific focus action has been highlighted to indicate the partnership actions that the Health and Wellbeing Board would most like to see progress over the 5-year duration of the strategy.

High-level outcome indicators from the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF), Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF), and other national surveys where relevant, have been outlined for each priority area to indicate how medium- to long-term progress will be monitored.

Priority Area 1: Taking action to address the impact of poverty on health and wellbeing

Poverty restricts the ability to have the means necessary for a healthy life. It negatively impacts many of the social determinants of health such as housing, social participation, and access to transport. Managing life without enough money can also be a significant source of stress, negatively impacting both mental and physical health². Measures aimed at poverty proofing those on low incomes, promoting financial wellbeing and providing support for those in need, are fundamental to reducing health inequalities.

Taking learning from the Council's Cost-of-Living programme and emerging poverty reduction approach; evidence from the Institute of Health Equity report for [London Cost-of-Living](#); and existing partnership approaches, we've developed a number of actions in this priority area. This includes supporting residents to maximise income through skills development. For example, the use of Adult Learning Lewisham courses including support into work and good jobs.

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| Ambition | To ensure that Lewisham health and social care services provide appropriate support and signposting for those experiencing poverty in Lewisham wherever possible. |
| Evidence / data / case for action | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lewisham Annual Public Health Report 2023⁶• Institute for Health Equity report 'The Rising Cost of Living: A Review of Interventions to Reduce Impacts on Health Inequalities in London,' 2023 |
| Key actions / what we will do | Specific focus action - To embed a making every contact count (MECC) plus approach for financial wellbeing awareness and signposting to support within health and social care services in Lewisham. |

⁶ [Lewisham Council \(2023\). The cost-of-living crisis and health: Impact and action in Lewisham. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023.](#)

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To embed debt/benefit advice services within health and social care provision in Lewisham. • To pilot poverty proofing approaches within a sample of health (primary and secondary) and adult social care pathways in Lewisham. • To deliver co-located holistic health and care services wherever feasible in Lewisham. • To deliver the Warm Welcomes scheme in Lewisham each year. • To further embed housing advice and support into co-located service hubs e.g. Family Hubs and Family Help. • To develop a collaborative programme for work and health in Lewisham in line with Lewisham's Economic Development Strategy, including the Connect to Work programme and support for young people who are marginalised to be economically active. |
| High-level outcome indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of children in low-income families (under 16s). • Income deprivation affecting older people. • The percentage of the population with a physical or mental health condition in employment (aged 16 to 64). • Fuel poverty (low income, low energy efficiency methodology). • Social isolation: percentage of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like (18+ years). |

Priority Area 2: Taking action to address the impact of housing on health and wellbeing

Quality, affordable housing is imperative for health. There are many hazards which if present in the home are harmful to health, including excess cold, mould, and overcrowding⁷. For instance, a cold, damp home can exacerbate asthma and negatively affect mental health. Homes that are free from hazards, while also being affordable and secure, are vital for healthy individuals and communities. With the changing climate, the environments in which we live are also important for the future to reduce the risk of health harms from extreme heat and cold – particularly among the very young and older adults.

Lewisham Council has an existing Housing Strategy through which key initiatives such as the private rented property selective licensing scheme, the housing stock and conditions survey for Lewisham's council housing and the Joint Working Protocol for Hospital Discharge have all been implemented. Lewisham also has an existing collaborative of housing providers in the borough, with some providers such as Phoenix Housing having strong links to local primary care networks. These assets will be key building blocks for the actions within this priority area of the strategy.

⁷ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2006). GOV.UK website. Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Operating guidance: Housing act 2004, guidance about inspections and assessment of hazards given under section 9 (2006).

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| Ambition | To ensure that Lewisham health and care services provide appropriate support and signposting for those experiencing housing challenges in Lewisham wherever feasible. |
| Evidence / data / case for action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewisham Annual Public Health Report 2023⁶ • Institute for Health Equity report 'The Rising Cost of Living: A Review of Interventions to Reduce Impacts on Health Inequalities in London,' 2023 |
| Actions | <p>Specific focus action - To build a Lewisham collaborative of health, social care, education and housing providers to facilitate regular communication and joint working to address housing and health challenges in Lewisham e.g. damp and mould, overcrowding and fuel poverty. This will include developing a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shared understanding of health and housing data by health, social care and housing partners. ○ shared understanding of specific housing needs in Lewisham e.g. housing for older adults, children enrolled in school, victims of domestic abuse and members of the LGBTQ+ community. • To implement and embed the existing Joint Health and Housing Working Protocol between adult social care, primary care and Lewisham Housing, for hospital discharge and to avoid escalations in the community. • To develop a model of working between primary care and Lewisham housing providers to support appropriate signposting and information provision about housing and homelessness services by primary care staff. • To enhance communication/data sharing with schools about children entering temporary |

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| | <p>accommodation and ensure that those in temporary accommodation have access to health and social care services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote prevention work in collaboration with housing providers, e.g. cardiovascular disease prevention activities (e.g., health checks) and addressing the social determinants of health (e.g. debt advice). • To take partnership action to address the impact of damp and mould on health in Lewisham e.g. implementation of the London Damp and Mould checklist among health and adult social care staff. |
| High-level outcome indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation. • Emergency readmissions within 30 days of discharge from hospital. • Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged. |

Priority Area 3: Taking action to embed prevention for children and young people in partnership with educational settings

Education provides the skills and knowledge necessary to attain secure fulfilling jobs and participate within society. Inequalities experienced during school years can have lifelong impacts, including on both income and health. Improving educational attainment in both school years and adulthood is key to reducing unemployment and providing opportunities for high quality jobs with better job satisfaction, autonomy, security and pay, all of which contribute to health and wellbeing⁸. Prevention initiatives for children and young people, such as immunisations and relationship and sexual education, are important both now and throughout their adult lives.

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| Ambition | To work with educational settings in Lewisham to deliver preventative interventions to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Lewisham. |
| Evidence / Data / Case for action | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lewisham Annual Public Health Report 2023⁵• Institute for Health Equity report 'The Rising Cost of Living: A Review of Interventions to Reduce Impacts on Health Inequalities in London,' 2023 |
| Actions | <p>Specific focus action - To expand the financial literacy training offer for schools/educational settings, building on work with credit unions and other providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To work with the school aged immunisations provider and Lewisham schools and colleges to increase the uptake of school aged immunisations in Lewisham. |

⁸ [C Leavey, S Bunbury, R Cresswell \(2021\). Lifelong learning and levelling up: building blocks for good health. The Health Foundation.](#)

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with the Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service and Lewisham educational settings to establish a robust offer to support Relationship and Sexual Education in Lewisham (as part of the Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Bromley, and Bexley sexual health strategy). • To refine and implement a public health approach to addressing youth violence in partnership with a range of a partners including schools and educational settings. • To implement the Lewisham Emotional Health and Wellbeing delivery plan, which includes oversight of mental health support teams in schools. |
| High-level outcome indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population vaccination coverage: Flu (primary school aged children) • Under 16s conception rate • HPV vaccine uptake in females and males • Level of satisfaction with their lives overall (0–10) from Children's Society Household Survey • Level of happiness (0–10) from the Children's Society Household Survey |

Priority Area 4: Taking action to progress key prevention programmes within the borough, with a focus on embedding prevention of cancer and cardiovascular disease across the Lewisham system

Prevention is about keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of ill health and early death. This can be through population-level interventions in the community, or actions on the social determinants of health. Prevention also includes detecting health problems early, so that early interventions or treatments are possible, to reduce the health harms. This tends to be in health and social care settings. To take cardiovascular disease (CVD) as an example, prevention in the community includes having access to green space for physical activity and a food environment that promotes having a healthy diet. In health settings, prevention activities include detecting high blood pressure or high cholesterol, which can then be treated before the individual develops symptoms of CVD. In adult social care, prevention initiatives may include promotion of physical activity to those with a diagnosis of cardiovascular ill health and social prescribing to community-based services to keep those with CVD to live as independently for as long as possible. Health and wellbeing partners in Lewisham are committed to finding ways to maintain and where possible increase investment in prevention despite a challenge financial context.

Lewisham Council is also seeing growing demand and complexity in adult social care needs and aims to continue to focus on a strengths-based, preventative approach that helps people to remain living at home independently for as long as possible. The Lewisham vision and strategy for adult social care states: “We will work with you, when you need care and support, to enable you to flourish and live your life to the full.” In terms of prevention this includes a commitment to work with the local community to provide sustainable, integrated, proactive and preventative support.

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| Ambition | To ensure that key preventative strategies are progressed to meet the needs of Lewisham residents, particularly in the areas of cancer and cardiovascular disease prevention. |
| Evidence / data / case for action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewisham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Immunisation and Screening Inequalities topic assessment and Impact of COVID-19 topic assessment) • Birmingham and Lewisham Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) |
| Actions | <p>Specific focus action - To embed prevention of cancer and cardiovascular disease (CVD) across the system, with a focus on primary and adult social care through the integrated neighbourhood team model. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighbourhood Health Equity Teams who will focus on coproducing and delivering community-based initiatives around CVD prevention. ○ Neighbourhood based multi-disciplinary teams to support those with multiple long-term conditions including CVD to stay as healthy and independent for as long as possible. ○ Aligning neighbourhood teams with social prescribing to maximise access to community-based interventions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver on the prevention commitment of the Lewisham vision and strategy for Adult Social Care. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring that the Better Care Fund continues to support residents to maintain independence through the delivery of community-based proactive initiatives and services. |

- Use of digital interventions where appropriate to support community-based care.
- The ongoing delivery of an effective reablement service in Lewisham.
- To continue to deliver the Lewisham Physical Activity Strategy, 'Let's Get Moving' with a focus on the 'Active People' ambitions to:
 - Encourage uptake of sport and physical activity by women and girls.
 - Increase opportunities for people with disabilities to access physical activity.
 - Ensure older residents have a variety of activities available to help encourage uptake and maintenance of regular physical activity.
- To refresh Lewisham's Whole System Approach to Addressing Obesity.
- To publish a Lewisham Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco strategy, with a focus on implementing the Combatting Drugs Partnership.
- To publish a Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Bromley, and Bexley sexual health strategy.
- To implement the Lewisham Acute Respiratory (Infection) Illness plan.
- To publish a Lewisham Vaccination and Immunisation Strategy.
- To embed a health inequalities approach across Lewisham and continue to implement the opportunities for action from the BLACHIR report.
- To refresh and implement the Lewisham Suicide Prevention strategy.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build on existing community-based approaches to increase cancer screening coverage in Lewisham. |
| High-level outcome indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 75 years mortality for CVD • Under 75 years mortality for Cancer • Breast cancer screening coverage (%) • Cervical Cancer Screening Coverage (%) • Bowel Cancer Screening Coverage (%) • Excess weight for children at reception and Year 6 • Smoking prevalence (16+) • Potential years of life lost (PYLL) due to alcohol-related conditions (male and female) • Suicide rate per 100,000 population • The proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services |

Glossary

Acute respiratory infection

This is an illness that starts suddenly and can last for up to three weeks. It causes symptoms such as cough (which may be productive), sore throat, shortness of breath, wheezing and chest discomfort or pain.

Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)

This framework measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people. It is used both locally and nationally to set priorities for care and support, measure progress and strengthen transparency and accountability.

Annual Public Health Report (APHR)

This is a yearly report that every Director of Public Health publishes, which is an independent report focusing on a particular health and wellbeing issue affecting local communities.

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health, housing and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

Cardiovascular disease

This is a general term for conditions affecting the heart or blood vessels.

Clinical risk factors

These are factors that can increase the likelihood of developing a disease or experiencing a negative health outcome.

Combatting Drugs Partnership

This is a local partnership with the responsibility for delivering the UK National Drug Strategy (2022) at a local level.

Connect to work programme

This is a work programme in England and Wales to help disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to employment, to find sustainable work.

Financial literacy

Financial literacy is the possession of skills, knowledge, and behaviours that allow an individual to make informed decisions regarding money.

Health and wellbeing boards

These are formal committees of the local authority that provide a forum where political, clinical, professional and community leaders from across the health and care system come together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

Health equity

This means that everyone has a fair opportunity to achieve their highest level of health.

Health equity teams

These teams bring together health and care partners with local community organisations to find new ways to achieve health equity in Lewisham.

Health inequalities

These are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. These include how long people are likely to live, the health conditions they may experience and the care that is available to them.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

This is the name of a very common group of viruses. They do not cause any problems in most people, but some types can cause genital warts or cancer.

Immunisation

This means both receiving a vaccine and then becoming immune to a disease.

Integrated neighbourhood teams

These teams bring together professionals from health, social care, and the voluntary sector to provide joined-up, community-based services.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

These are assessments of the current and future health and social care needs of a local population. They are produced by health and wellbeing boards and are unique to each local area.

Life expectancy

This is a statistical measure of the average time someone is expected to live, based on the year of their birth, current age and other demographic factors including their sex.

Making every contact count (MECC)

This is an approach that encourages public facing staff and volunteers to make the most of the contact that they have with the general public to improve health and wellbeing.

Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF)

This is a tool used in public health to understand and track trends in population health, focusing on achieving positive health outcomes and reducing health inequalities.

Poverty proofing

These are initiatives that aim to reduce or eliminate barriers to healthcare access faced by individuals experiencing poverty.

Reablement services

These services help people to retain or regain their skills and confidence so they can learn to manage again after a period of illness.

Social determinants of health

These are factors that play a major role in shaping health and health inequalities. They include income, employment, housing and other social factors that interact to shape the conditions in which people live. These factors are influenced by local, regional and national policies.

Social prescribing

This is an approach that connects people with community resources, activities, and support to improve their health and wellbeing. It involves healthcare professionals referring individuals to non-clinical services that address their social, emotional, and practical needs.

Warm Welcomes

This is an initiative that has been set up in Lewisham to provide warm spaces for residents within community centres, libraries, faith groups and other settings. These settings offer drop-in spaces free of charge, where they provide hot drinks, some hot food, social activities and additional support.

Contributors

We would like to thank all of the following partners for their contributions towards the development of this strategy:

- Lewisham Council
- Lewisham Local Care Partnership
- Lewisham and Greenwich Trust
- Lewisham Healthwatch
- Lewisham Young Mayor's Team
- Lewisham Citizens
- Age UK Lewisham and Southwark
- Social Inclusion Recovery Group
- KINARAA
- Citizens Advice Lewisham
- St. Christopher's Hospice
- Action for Community Development
- Phoenix Housing
- GLL / Better
- South London and the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
- Lewisham Local