

Obesity roles

Young People's Advocate

You are the head of a local primary school. Your school has taken part in the National Childhood Measuring Programme for obesity for the past three years. You are aware that obesity is a problem nationally, but do not feel that the school can do more than it is already doing. The school runs several after-school clubs for team games and dancing.

Time within the school day is already difficult to find, to meet national curriculum requirements.

Childhood obesity – 2009/10 data

	Reception	Year 6	Total
London Participation Rate	92%	92%	92%
Kingston Participation Rate	97%	95%	96%

Kingston achieves the highest level of coverage in SWL...

		Overweight	Obese
London prevalence	Reception	13%	12%
	Year 6	15%	22%
Kingston prevalence	Reception	10%	7%
	Year 6	15%	16%

...and has a lower prevalence of obese and overweight children than London but 31% is still far too high

There has been a reduction in the percentage of pupils being driven to school from 21% last year to 19% this year.

Community Development Worker

You are a community development worker in a local social housing estate. You are worried that many people rarely exercise and eat poorly. Local shops are expensive and have a limited range of fresh produce.

You would like to see local facilities and services improved. A recent scheme to allow free swimming for young people under 16 doubled the number of children attending local pools, and you are aware of many from your estate who have stopped swimming since this was withdrawn.

There is little outdoor space for recreational activities, and most of the local exercise facilities are expensive private clubs.

Local councillor 1

You are an independent local councillor. You stood for the local council from a desire to improve services and lives for local people.

You are very concerned about improving life for those who are worst off and least able to help themselves. You want to see a ban on fast food sales close to schools, and would like the recently stopped free swimming for all children under 16 reinstated.

Take up of school lunches in primary schools at 26% and for secondary schools 32.9%. Last year we had 8 schools where only packed lunches were provided for pupils on free school meals, but hot meal provision has now been introduced to 4 of these, and uptake of meals has improved.

Local councillor 2

You are an independent local councillor. You stood for the local council from a desire to improve services and lives for local people.

You want to improve profits for local businesses, which in turn will improve tax revenues and local amenities. You are worried about the lack of responsibility taken by people for their own lives. There are many facilities for exercise locally, which are not used to capacity.

You feel strongly that eating and exercise habits are individual lifestyle issues, and that there is sufficient information around for people to follow if they wish to change their habits.

You are concerned at the potentially rising cost of bariatric surgery provision locally, and the knock-on effect this may have on availability of other health services.

Public Health

You work in the local public health department. You have been asked to develop an obesity policy to improve health and reduce the harm due to obesity locally.

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Local QOF data shows that in 2008/09 8.98% of patients were recorded as obese in GP records in London, compared to 9.91% nationally.