



Young People's  
Health Partnership

## **Key messages from the Young People's Health Partnership response to the Prevention Green Paper**

### **A focus on young people age 10-24**

#### **Preventing ill health must be a cross-government responsibility**

- In order to achieve a truly preventative approach to health, there must be a cross-government focus on improving the social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.
- A cross-government strategy, led by the Treasury or Cabinet Office, will be necessary to hold departments to account and ensure prevention is built into all departmental policies.

#### **Public services must be given the resources to rebalance the system towards prevention and the role of the voluntary sector in supporting prevention must be recognised and resourced**

- The capacity of public services to work in a preventative way has been dramatically reduced by austerity.
- Where there has been additional funding, this has often been made available through discrete funding streams, administered by different departments, and with varying timescales and criteria. This makes long-term planning, and integrated preventative work, extremely difficult.
- Joined up funding streams and an uplift on all public spending, with a particular focus on the public health grant, local authority children's services and the benefits system, is needed to rebalance the system towards prevention.
- Recognising and meeting the specific needs of young people is important through specialist young people services and reinvestment in sources of health and wellbeing support for young people such as school nursing, and the youth sector. The voluntary youth sector and advice services have an important role in delivering effective prevention by addressing the social determinants of young people's health.

#### **Prevention should be at the centre of workforce planning**

- There is a need for wider understanding about how to 'do' prevention. A children and young people's workforce strategy would support the development of a well-qualified workforce

with the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to work in a preventive way. It is important to note that working to age 25 will mean this strategy should include the adult workforce;

- Workforce mapping and modelling should be joined-up across the NHS, public health and voluntary sector workforce to put the young person's journey and care at the centre;
- Prevention should be identified as a priority in NHS local area implementation plans and the refresh of the Healthy Child Programme.

### **Data and evidence**

- In order to maximise the benefits to children, young people and families, departments need to ensure that services don't work in silos to better understand and address needs.
- An oversight review is needed to establish what data is collected on young people in different places and identify what the gaps are. The health index should prioritise the health of children and young people, given they are the workers of the future.
- Evaluation of impact and evidence-based decision making should be prioritised to ensure longevity of policies.

### **Predictive prevention**

- There should be a more careful consideration of whether to focus on genetic and predictive prevention given that it is not always the most useful or accurate. Prevention approaches that avoid focusing on individual predispositions or responsibility, and focus more on whole populations in line with a public health approach are to be welcomed.

### ***About the Young People's Health Partnership***

*The Young People's Health Partnership represents the interests of young people and young adults aged 10 – 25. We focus specifically on young people facing health inequalities. We are a partnership of six organisations with VCSE networks across England from the youth and young people's health sectors.*

- *We support young people to exercise empowered and active voices*
- *We provide advice on how policies and services can affect young people differently, particularly marginalised groups.*
- *We increase understanding of good age appropriate care for young people and why it is important*
- *We focus on young people's wellbeing and increasing understanding of effective prevention work*
- *We support the youth and young people's health sectors to work in partnership with the health system*

*The partnership is led by the Association for Young People's Health and also includes Addaction, Brook, StreetGames, UK Youth and Youth Access.*