

**Monitoring the Climate Resilience of  
London's Health Sector**  
Public Health England, Wellington House,  
London SE1 8UG



**Agenda**

09:30:	Arrival, coffee	
10:00	Welcome and introductions	Marc Beveridge, PHE
10:10	Climate change and health – impacts, vulnerability, and monitoring	Sari Kovats, LSHTM
10:35	The National Adaptation Programme – the policy context	Nick Jackson, Defra
10:50	Health and sustainability: NHS SDU approach	Kim Croasdale, NHS SDU
11:05	London's sector-based adaptation programme	Kristen Guida, LCCP
11:20	Q&A	All
11:30	Break	
11:40	Workshop discussions:	Kristen
12:30	Feedback and group discussion	All
12:50	Next steps	Kristen, Marc
13:00	Close	All

**In attendance:**

<p>Marc Beveridge, PHE (Chair)          Anya Plescia Boyd, Konsult 360          Lauren Brain, NHS          Carolyn Calvert, Public Health Service, LB Harrow, LB Barnet          Jennifer Chiavone, NHS          Kim Croasdale, NHS SDU          Kelly Dallen, London Resilience          Gwen Doran, PHE          Paul Graham, NHS          Kristen Guida, LCCP          Candice Howarth, Surrey University          Nick Jackson, Defra</p>	<p>Agnes Jung, PHE          Sari Kovats, LSHTM          Owen Landeg, PHE          Rosalind Louth, PHE          Bryony May, Met Office          Alice McGushin, MBBS University of Tasmania, LSHTM          Shayla Meyer, Junxion          Peninah Murage, LSHTM          Anna Sexton, PHE          Ross Thompson, PHE          James Wakefield,          Shuo Zhang, Lambeth GP Food COOP, Sustainability Committee at the Royal College of Psychiatry</p>
---	--

## **Welcome and introductions**

Marc welcomed everyone and said that this event is part of a wider sector-based approach to climate change adaptation outlined in the new London Environment Strategy and being led by the London Climate Change Partnership (LCCP) on behalf of the Mayor of London. He emphasized the need for collaboration and partnership to ensure that public health priorities can be delivered into the future, and suggested that this event and the colleagues present could be the start of a group dedicated to supporting and monitoring health sector adaptation in London.

## **Climate change and health systems in the UK: impacts, vulnerability, and monitoring – Sari Kovats, LSHTM**

Sari gave an overview of the main findings for health in the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, with heatwaves, flooding, and pests and diseases identified as the key risks. Evidence about the risks of Heatwave, Flooding, Drought, and Cold was gathered around four main areas of the sector: Communities and Settlements, Buildings, Health and Care Sector, and Population Health. Observed impacts of extreme weather in the UK health sector include not only adverse impacts (distress, discomfort, illness) on people, but also disruption of health and care sector services, including equipment failure and loss of IT services.

Sari set out some of the known options for adapting to climate risks, but also explained some of the challenges that make adaptation difficult, including fragmentation in the sector, poor understanding of the risks, and poor quality of homes and gaps in building and construction codes.

Assessing resilience/preparedness is difficult because of the complexity of climate-related risks and the lack of a clear causal relationship between adaptation efforts and actual impacts (or lack thereof) on the ground. Sari gave some examples of types of monitoring and evaluation that currently exist, including the Covenant of Mayors framework for local government and evaluation of Heat Action Plans. See her presentation [here](#).

## **The National Adaptation Programme: the Policy Context – Nick Jackson, Defra**

Nick introduced Defra as the lead Government department for climate change adaptation, overseeing the preparation of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), the National Adaptation Programme, and the Adaptation Reporting Power strategy. Each of these projects is required by the Climate Change Act 2008, and are produced every five years.

The latest CCRA was published in 2017, and Defra is currently writing the 2018 National Adaptation Programme (NAP), which is expected to be published before the summer recess. The strategy for the third round of the Adaptation Reporting Power will be published alongside the NAP.

Defra is also working with the Met Office on the updated UK Climate Projections (UKCP18), which are due to be released toward the end of the year.

Nick described our current understanding of heat risk in the UK. Currently, 20 percent of homes overheat even in a cool summer. Regulation does not exist to ensure that new and existing buildings do not overheat. In London, it is projected that in the 2030s, two-thirds of flats and up to half of detached properties would overheat. Buildings such as hospitals and care homes are also overheating.

The first NAP set out a series of actions to be taken to address climate change risks to health and wellbeing. These include reviewing national guidance on design, engineering, and operation of healthcare facilities to improve flood and heat resilience, an independent evaluation of the Heatwave Plan for England, and consideration of climate risks to health and wellbeing in Sustainable Development Management Plans.

Nick also mentioned that the Environmental Audit Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into risks to health, wellbeing, and productivity from heatwaves. Ministers from Defra, DHSC, and MHCLG have given oral evidence, among other experts. Links and further information can be found in [Nick's presentation](#).

### **Health and Sustainability: the NHS Sustainable Development Unit Approach – Kim Croasdale, NHS SDU**

Kim shared her thoughts about sustainability in the health sector in the context of climate change adaptation. She noted that this event is timely, coinciding with Sustainable Health and Care week. She encouraged participants to think more widely than health, considering a range of other related areas of concern, and was pleased that adaptation could be positive, including opportunities to do things better.

#### The bigger picture

A cyclical relationship in which the way we deliver health and care is causing harm, impacting wider determinants of health, increasing reliance on health and care.

#### The importance of communication

- I'm from the Sustainable Development Unit, and here arises our first problem: what is sustainability or sustainable development?
- People have widely varying ideas and definitions of sustainability and the difficulty is that people often mean different things when they talk about sustainability. We think of it as being able to continue operating in increasingly constrained or pressured scenarios - and having a positive impact. Other definitions:
  - Brundtland (World Commission on Environment and Development): development in current generation without compromising ability of future generations to meet their own needs
  - With environmental, social and economic considerations, i.e. triple bottom line
  - Some think "sustainability" is purely about financial sustainability.
- Make sure you know what you're talking about - and the people you're talking to do too
  - Don't assume the people you're talking to know what "adaptation" means.
  - Adaptation to what? Why? For whom?
- For me, it's about making sure that we are delivering health and care in a way that is not causing people harm, but instead of creating and contributing to future health and wellbeing
- Sustainable Development Strategy (being refreshed ready for 2020) has three goals
  - Leadership by example
  - Community
  - Innovation and supply chain

#### Staying positive

Moving on: let's look at some stats

- Reporting
  - 71% of trusts have an SDMP

- 32% of trusts have an adaptation plan - although 71% of these reported on adaptation measures
- Health
  - Around 90% of hospital wards are of a type prone to overheating (Adaptation Sub-Committee)
  - Under 50% of clinical areas are reported as being covered for thermal monitoring
  - Almost 3000 overheating events reported in ERIC (accounting for outliers that suggests an average of 5-7 events per trust)
  - Residential homes may be more affected by overheating than providers but there is currently no measurement or data collection in place
- Sustainability
  - 98% of NHS staff believe that it's important for the NHS to run in an environmentally sustainable way

### **London's Sector-Based Adaptation Approach- Kristen Guida, LCCP**

Kristen introduced the sector-based approach to adaptation that is set out in the new London Environment Strategy and being led by the London Climate Change Partnership. The intention is to work with sectors to help them understand their risks from weather and future climate, and to support collaboration between them so that they can respond and build resilience. Collaboration and partnership working are essential for adaptation, because weather and climate impacts do not respect geographical or sectoral boundaries.

Part of this approach will involve monitoring and assessment of adaptation in London's sectors to determine whether our adaptation measures are working, where the highest priorities are, what data is available, and what more we need. Kristen will work with sector partners to agree and monitor indicators, and she has developed an assessment framework that uses a mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative indicators to track how well London's sectors are adapting. Some examples appear in [her presentation](#).

As a matter of principle, we should aim to draw indicators from existing data sets rather than inventing new ones, and in some cases existing monitoring regimes could be adapted to provide useful information for this purpose. Also, this assessment framework will align with other monitoring of adaptation, for example by the Adaptation Sub-Committee and in the London Environment Strategy.

Sector experts can contribute to a robust understanding of data and data needs, and the process of indicator development provides a useful platform for engaging stakeholders. LCCP provides a ready-made forum for this new approach, and can be expanded and built upon to accommodate new partners and sectors.

So far, a transport sector group, led by TfL, has also been set up, and there will also be a sub-group of the London Food Board to look at London's food resilience. Water and the Natural Environment are also in the pipeline for the near future, with other sectors to follow.

### **Workshops: What does "well-adapted" look like? How do we get there?**

Kristen led two workshops, encouraging participants to split into three groups and think about how "well-adapted" would look different from what we have now, how we could recognize it, and how it could be measured. She also asked people to think

about what specific actions need to happen, and by whom. The major themes and examples emerging were as follows:

#### Challenges:

- Seen as a difficult message to communicate, and the need to coordinate across government and across local policy and activity
- Perceptions of PHE as “nanny state”
- Perception of weather - UK is seen as a wet, cold country
- Wellbeing has become “conspicuous consumption,” for the wealthy.
- Education lacking
- Different priorities, goals, demographics, politics in different places.
- Need to value social benefit as well as economic incentives. What do people care about?

#### Communication:

- Using language for effective communication. Are messages right, are they reaching the right people? Lack of communication of the potential drought in London
- Raise awareness of research and literature about health risks associated with climate change
- Raise awareness of how to make better choices for health
- Encourage, maintain political momentum
- Communication during emergencies: of risks, impacts, and actions required
- Quantify effects in monetary terms to leverage investment in long-term prevention.
- How to communicate? Mechanisms and good practice:
  - Risk registers
  - Websites
  - School lessons
  - Red Cross app for emergency preparedness.
  - Hackney website good info on how to improve health and wellbeing; Encouraging people to get involved at a community level;
  - Thrive London - empowering communities
  - Local knowledge easily available, e.g. health is affected at 26 degrees
  - PHE just published health impacts of heat; tailored information about what's available or what can be done;
  - Climate Just – map overlays social vulnerability with flood and heat risk, sets out where climate-vulnerable people are. Also provides information about how to help them
  - Local Knowledge & Intelligence Service
  - PHE Health Economics tools - you can put in figures and work out what savings could be made by changing options - helps to prove that prevention pays
  - Health and environmental impacts assessments

#### Collaboration and knowledge sharing

- Identify lessons and good practice. Learn from other countries and cities, see what can be monitored across cities. Coordinate to learn, reflect, prevent
- Capacity: building understanding of how adaptation relates to a particular role or objective, to give a sense of empowerment.
- Within organizations - linking assessment, planning, and action teams; encouraging teams within organizations to talk through the problem
- Standardize working – best practice informed templates, e.g., for complex organisations like NHS trusts. So we don't all have to find capacity to

research, develop, test, and capture learning in isolation. Tell us what's best, but allow flexibility in how to implement.

- Specialist expert group, sharing training and local champions.
- Training: GPs, nurse practitioners – link with associations; Selective specific training, for example on recognising heat stroke
- Responsibility for own health and guidance for local practitioners to prevent conditions rather than treat symptoms.

Cross-sector discussions. Need to engage with others:

- Food and sustainability; Food preparedness/strategy. Communities and different sectors to work together.
- Buildings: National Planning Policy Framework; ensure effective building regulations; housing and environmental agenda, for example insulation in houses. Future-proofing accommodation. Making cooling features and materials accessible; Mandating developer responsibility
- Green infrastructure: Health and wellbeing awareness events in green space; promoting greener cities. Co-benefits of adaptation, balanced environments/ecosystems, health, amenity, etc.
- Connect with third sector environmental and other groups.
- Borough resilience forums
- Local authorities and health organizations
- Water sector and drought

Wider issues:

- Community resilience: Self-sufficient, responsible people, knowing how to access help if required. Changing behaviors and habits, managing problems before they occur
- Give industry and suppliers incentive to do what's best. Taxes on "negative" products – direct price : damage relationship, e.g., carbon tax, and subsidising "positive" products.
- Strategic-level preparation – real conversation needs to be had about abandoning very high-risk areas, like flood zones
- Alleviating poverty barriers to adaptation, addressing health inequalities through adaptation
- Policy and big players leading initiatives and funding